

LIVELY BALL BEAT BOTH FORWARD LINES

First Goalless Draw Of The Season For Town

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 0, TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 0

JUST a shower of rain would have been helpful at Kenilworth-road on Saturday when these two teams had to face the twin handicap of a hard ground and a lively, bouncing ball.

These conditions, which have to be contended with so often in the closing weeks of the season, when most pitches are nearly bare of grass, was the major reason why this match did not produce any goals, the first time that has happened to the Luton fans this season.

In many ways, this was an equitable result because both defences were so strong, but had the Town gained the edge by the only goal, I do not think there would have been any cause for complaint.

Certainly, their second-half display entitled them to feel that they had deserved the other point, but when chances occurred they found themselves frustrated by Ditchburn, who made two remarkable saves from Adam, midway through the second-half when the Town were on top.

First, Ditchburn somehow reached a full-blooded drive and then pushed over a header from a position that needed almost an acrobatic trick to reach it.

His other serious task after the interval was to keep out a shot from Dunne, who came through unexpectedly but did not find the goalkeeper unprepared.

Baynham had one or two bits of trouble of his own, especially when a clearance by Dunne was nearly turned past him, but although Smith twice went near in the first-half, the Town goal was only seldom in real jeopardy.

INTERESTING ENCOUNTER

Apart from the absence of goals, this was an encounter that always held the interest and which produced some quite good football in midfield.

However, the difficulty in controlling the ball which meant that the process took that extra split second, gave defenders an inestimable advantage and the quickness of the tackling of both teams cut down the danger in front of goal.

With Brown absent again, the Town tried Groves as an orthodox centre-forward for half-an-hour and then discarded the plan in favour of having Groves lying deep at inside-left and using Cullen as the spearhead.

This worked rather better than the previous arrangement, but there was not quite enough thrust about the Luton finishing hard though the enthusiastic Cullen worked.

While he has not been among the goals, Cullen has certainly justified his inclusion in the side in the last two matches.

With Turner he shared the tag of the most dangerous forward and the inside-right tried desperately hard to find the open space that would have enabled him to add to his goals total.

As things turned out, Adam's attempts were the nearest to a goal, though Groves had one disallowed for offside early on.

On this occasion, Adam, although he wasted a lot of material, was more impressive than McLeod who found difficulty in making progress.

WING-HALVES' FINE JOB

Gloomy predictions made even gloomier when the news of Morton's injury became known, that the Town's strength at half-

back would disappear, have not been fulfilled.

Pacey has done a grand job in Pearce's place and now McGuffie, deputising for Morton, has two excellent matches behind him.

Both these young wing-halves were well on top of their jobs against vastly experienced inside-forwards and came through most creditably.

Owen was again not only the sheet anchor of the defence but its general and he capably held Smith, who was a bit of a hand-ful at times.

That Welsh International wingers, Medwin and Jones were kept so quiet is a tribute to the work of Dunne and Hawkes, neither of whom gave their opponents much room and, from the Tottenham point of view, the wing play was disappointing.

Always Baynham showed good judgment and anticipation and deserved to keep a clean sheet.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; McGuffie, Owen, Pacey; Adam, Turner, Groves, Cullen, McLeod.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: Ditchburn; Hills, Henry; Blanchflower, Norman, Ryden; Medwin, Brooks, Smith, Harmer Jones.

Referee: E. T. Jennings, Stourbridge.

Attendance: 22,357.

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WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"A goalless draw may suggest lack of excitement, but this game was crammed full of it."—*The People.*

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"Had Luton had a reasonable run of the ball in the second half, when they were on top for long periods, they would have snatched the all-important goal. McGuffie showed confidence and came out as the best wing-half on the field."—*Sunday Express.*

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"Luton's 21-years-old wing-halves, Alwyn McGuffie and Dave Pacey were outstanding, even when measured against Ireland's Danny Blanchflower, and the mercurial Mike Cullen and the hard-working Gordon Turner were the forwards who caused Tottenham's defence the most trouble."—*News of the World.*

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"Without the leadership of Allan Brown, Luton had to rely on Gordon Turner for their goal-punch. But Gordon was nowhere near the goal-scoring menace he can be."—*Sunday Pictorial.*

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"If it hadn't been for a couple of pieces of vintage Ditchburn goalkeeping midway through the second half, Luton would have snatched two points they hardly deserved."—*Sunday Graphic.*

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"On the run of the play Luton should have won comfortably. They dictated things to such an extent after the interval that Spurs spent most of the time in defence."—*Empire News and Sunday Chronicle.*