

MISSED CHANCES COST TOWN DEAR

Could Have Been One Of Their Shining Hours

By CHILTERN

59/60 (CAC)

LUTON TOWN 1, WOLVES 4

THIS could have been so very easily one of the Town's finest hours because, at one stage of the match, they had the mighty Wolves almost on their knees and, afterwards, their manager, Stan Cullis, admitted to being worried about the way things were going in the latter part of the first half.

However, as has so often been the story this season, the Town failed to make the most of their first half scoring chances. Had they done so, Wolves' career in the Cup could well have ended in the Kenilworth-road mud.

Yet the thing the Town feared most happened—Wolves gained an early lead when MASON, after three minutes, fastened on to a pass by Broadbent that Kelly could not clear, and, holding off a challenge by Pacey, beat Baynham with a low shot into the far corner of the net.

At that turn of events there was a certain amount of despair among the Town fans, who remembered that 5-1 beating by Wolves earlier in the season, but the Town shrugged off this reverse in magnificent style.

Slowly they gained the upper hand and worried the Wolves defence time and time again. Their luck was right out when McNally took a free-kick, got the ball right through, but Sidebottom just managed to push it on to a post and the rebound went the wrong way for the Town.

That bad luck was followed by a bad miss when Morton cut off a back pass by Slater, rounded the oncoming goalkeeper and then, having done everything right, slipped at the vital moment and

sent the ball wide of an empty net.

Another opportunity went astray when Bingham left Hawkes splendidly placed, but the winger hung on that fraction too long so that Sidebottom was able to smother the ball.

So the Town went in for half-time a goal in arrears when they might so easily have been ahead by 3-1, but we thought the tide was on the turn two minutes after half-time when TURNER drove in a centre by Bingham to put them on level terms.

That setback seemed to act more as a reviver to Wolves than the reverse, and they came more into the game than had been the case since the early part of the first half.

With 63 minutes gone they regained the lead when MASON dived to head in a corner from Deeley, but even that failed to deter the Town, who came back strongly again.

What finally decided their fate was a disputed goal in the 71st minute, when MURRAY, looking suspiciously offside, raced through the defence to beat Baynham.

And, to rub it in, CLAMP obtained a freak goal from the right wing four minutes later with a shot that dipped away from the groping fingers of Baynham and got in just under the bar.

It was a fate the Town did not deserve on the run of the play, and Wolves did not look the power machine for which they have a reputation until the third goal came.

However, Luton had only themselves to blame because they missed their scoring chances.

Easily the most dangerous of the forwards was Bingham, who always worried Harris without a great deal of support in the way of finishing power, though Turner was always prominent, and both Morton and Groves worked tremendously hard.

Move of playing Barry Hawkes at outside-left did not pay off and he was easily subdued by Stuart.

Wing-half strength from Brown and Pacey had a great deal to do with the grip which the Town held at one time, and Brown, in particular, had a great game.

Maybe, Kelly could have been more dominating but he, like Slater, had the worst of the conditions with which to contend.

Both Dunne and McNally did a fine job in subduing dangerous wingers, and Baynham made some brilliant saves.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, McNally; Brown, Kelly, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, Morton, Groves, Hawkes (B.).

WOLVES: Sidebottom; Stuart, Harris; Clamp, Slater, Flowers; Deeley, Mason, Murray, Broadbent, Horne.

Referee: M. Dixon, York.
Attendance: 25,714. Receipts: