

GOALS SIMPLY WOULD NOT COME FOR TOWN

Old Story Of Lack Of Penetration And Drive By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 0, WEST BROMWICH ALBION 0
INABILITY of the Town forwards to find sufficient power to penetrate the strong Albion defence cost them an invaluable point at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

On the balance of play, especially in the first half when they did a considerable amount of pressing without making for themselves clear-cut scoring chances, the Town should have made certain of victory and enhanced their hopes of avoiding relegation.

But the goals simply would not come, although the determined McBride went close two or three times and, in the second half, Turner actually beat Wallace, but then had the mortification of seeing Williams clear off the line.

The longer the match lasted, the greater became the Town's desperation and, increasingly, they looked despondent as success continued to elude them.

One goal might have made all the difference to their confidence in front of goal, but the truth was that the attack was not firing on all cylinders.

Too much responsibility was placed on the shoulders of McBride and Bingham because the left wing was much out of joint, with Groves taking too long in which to use the ball and tending to be caught in possession. In addition, his distribution was often faulty.

Tracey, one of a long line of players who have been tried in the problem spot of outside-left, did not look at all happy there and is at a considerable disadvantage in that he is not a natural left-footer.

DASH OF McBRIDE

There was a great deal of dash and whole-hearted endeavour from McBride who, however, lacked the sort of support on which a centre-forward can really thrive, and Bingham, mostly marked by two opponents, was the only other forward to really threaten the Albion defence.

Potentially, Turner was dangerous, but it did not add up to much in the end, partly because there was not the material served up on which the double spearhead could thrive.

Defensively there was little about which one could complain, because the half-back line was very strong indeed, with Pacey taking over the centre-half position as if he had been born to it and dominating the middle of the field.

Certainly, the switches in this department are working, because Morton shut out the dangerous Kevan, and Brown was hard-working and successful on the other flank.

Better of the full-backs was Dunne, who in the first half mastered Aitken, who spent the second a limping passenger.

Despite that, Albion showed an improvement after the interval, but carried no more punch than did the Town. Best scoring effort of the afternoon came from Allen just before half-time, and Baynham did extremely well to reach the ball.

While Hawkes sometimes gave the appearance of struggling, he did nothing seriously wrong, and Baynham had a reasonably quiet afternoon, with his sure handling of the ball a feature.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes (K); Morton, Pacey, Brown; Bingham, Turner, McBride, Groves, Tracey.

WEST BROM: Wallace; Howe, Williams (G); Drury, Kennedy, Robson; Jackson, Burnside, Allen, Kevan, Aitken.

Referee: C W Kingston, Newport. Attendance: 18,285.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton lost yet another vital home point because they could not press home their advantage when they were right on top. Against West Bromwich they held the upper hand for most of the first half, yet there was hardly a worthwhile shot from the whole forward line." — "News of the World."



"There is no doubt that Luton has the football ability to stay in the First Division—but if they have this sort of luck they are doomed for the big drop. They had two penalty appeals disallowed — and one, when Howe appeared to handle, looked genuine enough. I raise my hat to the Hatters for a fighting show—but, as the song says: "They need just a little bit of luck."—"Empire News."



"Part of Luton's trouble was over-anxiety, a thing they must rid themselves of if they are to avoid relegation. This looks unlikely unless some spark of genius is found in attack and someone with ability to hold the ball intelligently is put in."—"Sunday Express."



"The commanding sweep of Luton's first 20 minutes was form enough to save them their place among the favoured of the First Division. But the team they became long before the end convinced me now they fight a lost cause."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"This was a match which Luton had to win. They always looked like winning it . . . yet are now one week nearer Division II. Such was their luck. They forced 12 corners to three. Their defence, which has conceded fewer goals than 13 other First Division clubs, didn't allow Albion a real shot until the 32nd minute."—"News Chronicle."