

CRYING NEED: SCORING FORWARDS

LUTON TOWN 0, LEYTON ORIENT 1

THIS, at one time, looked like being the Bristol Rovers match all over again and it could have been if, and it is a very big if at that, the Town had had one forward who had the ability to put the ball into the back of the net.

These were two more home points lost through sheer lack of striking power in attack and exactly where the Manager will go from here must be a sore problem to him.

He did not see this vastly disappointing display because he was away, reputedly looking at a centre-half.

On this showing the crying need is for scoring forwards.

One of the few bright spots was the first-half display of young David Brogan who is obviously a cultured footballer of the future.

For Ashworth, of whom the Town fans were having their first sight, I was sorry, because by and large he received little in the way of support. When a clear-cut opening did present itself he was usually ruthlessly brought down.

I do not think there is any doubt at all that the Town should have had a penalty early in the second half.

On the run of the play and the amount of pressure which they exerted for long periods in the second half the Town should not have lost this match, but the first goal that sparked off the rally against Bristol Rovers was not forthcoming and Orient were content for most of the time to crowd their penalty area and rely on sharp breakaways.

One of the chief weaknesses in the forward line was on the extreme wings. Tracey had a nightmare match and only for ten minutes or so in the second half did Noake do anything memorable.

Turner was bogged down and very little was seen of his shooting powers.

Defensively the Town seem to have solved the majority of their problems — if this match can be taken as a criterion. Not that they were fully extended by an Orient forward line which lacked colour and indeed thrust.

Of the newcomers Bramwell, with the sureness and hardness of his tackling, was the best and Allan Brown was dominating at right-half, which is obviously his best position.

Always calm, Groves came through this match with plenty of marks and McGuffie was an improvement on recent displays by Pacey.

McNally, too, made quite a heartening return to the team and what O'Hara had to do he accomplished in a fashion that relieves anxiety about injuries to Baynham and Collier.

Even taking into account the poor forward display this was a match which the Town should not have lost, but not sufficient scoring openings were created, and those that were were frittered away by lack of decision.

Attendance: 10,898.