

TWO POINTS AFTER A GRIM STRUGGLE

Town Did Not Make The Most Of Their Chances

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 0

ON the basis of horses for courses, Huddersfield must have thought that they had a chance of ending their dismal run of consecutive defeats at Kenilworth-road on Saturday and, although they would have been fortunate to do so on the run of the play, they came close to holding the Town.

Both their previous matches on this pitch, they won, but they never really looked like repeating the dose this time, though the Town through their inability to make the best use of their scoring chances, made heavy weather of this success.

By half-time, the Town could have been ahead quite comfortably because, without showing the smoothness and deadliness in front of goal of their last two home appearances, they had 75 per cent of the play without being able to break down the stubborn Huddersfield defence.

Best chance of all fell to Turner who, after a defensive mix-up, was left with only Fearnley to beat but, instead of doing the obvious, which was to round the goalkeeper, he shot with his left foot and sent the ball well wide.

There were other escapes for Huddersfield during periods of heavy pressure and, when half-time arrived with the score-sheet still blank, it looked as if the misses might be costly to the Town.

However, they began the second half in most determined fashion and after four minutes gained a somewhat belated success when TURNER fastened on to a through pass by Morton and beat the fearless Fearnley, though Parker came very near to performing a rescue act on the goal-line.

Having broken the ice, the Town were then expected by their supporters to improve their position further, but it was Huddersfield who came into the picture immediately and they had one distinctly easy chance of drawing level when Massie shot wide from a good position.

Although the Town pressure

was nothing like so constant as it had been before the interval, they did carve out some opportunities for themselves and after he had glanced the ball just wide with his head, Turner failed in an attempt to lob the ball over Fearnley.

HARD, GRIM STRUGGLE

Although the Town advantage continued to hang by a very slender thread, there never seemed imminent threat that Huddersfield would save a point, though Standen made one glorious and very timely save from O'Grady in the closing minutes.

That was virtually the end of a hard, grim struggle for vital points in which the glue-pot pitch was not only stamina-sapping, but against the production of skilful football.

A livening shower beforehand would have been helpful but, as it was, accuracy in passing was most difficult to achieve.

Forward, the Town were served most consistently on the wings where Tracey took the transition from left to right in his stride, so that he had a very good first-half indeed against the experienced International, Wilson, whose dramatic antics and gestures brought him a measure of unpopularity with the crowd.

Brought in as a late replacement for the injured Spencer, Fleming had a most satisfactory debut and looks as promising a prospect as the Town have had for the left wing in quite a long time.

ONLY THE SECOND CLEAN SHEET

Two-footed, he showed plenty of confidence and the ability, not only to beat an opponent, but to serve up a supply of accurate centres.

Neither Ashworth nor Brown contributed so much as in recent home games and perhaps because of that, Turner was not so dangerous, though he had the chances to increase his goal tally by more than one.

In keeping a clean sheet for only the second time this season—the first was as far back as August 24—the defence can be said to have fulfilled its role faithfully.

So it did, though I would have liked to have seen a little more strength in the tackle from Morton and McGuffie, both of whom were shown up in a better light when they were attacking.

Bramwell, who again impressed by his coolness and intelligent positioning and Groves, who kept a tight grip on Milner, were the pick of the defence, along with Standen, who was very sure in his handling of the ball and his anticipation.

Early on McNally tended to give too much room to O'Grady, who emerged as a Huddersfield danger man, but he tightened up his grip afterwards and so increased his credit marks.

LUTON TOWN: Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Groves, McGuffie; Tracey, Ashworth, Turner, Brown, Fleming.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: Fearnley; Parker, Wilson; McGarry, Coddington, Low; McHale, Kerray, Milner, Massie, O'Grady.

Referee: W. Clements, West Bromwich. Attendance: 11,219.

Golf

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton ploughed their way to an undistinguished fourth consecutive victory, but their form against struggling Huddersfield was not up to their recent revival standard. It was a scrappy match, in which both attacks got themselves into a tangle.

"This gave two reasonably solid defences an afternoon in which they were able to end the few tricky situations which arose with confidence." — "Sunday Express."

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"Luton should have won in a canter. Throughout the first-half, with the exception of a Jim Kerray drive that brought out the best in Standen, they had Huddersfield scrambling in retreat. Only the fearless Fearnley stopped the onslaught." — "The People."

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"Luton, an honest, hard-working team, are surely good enough to escape relegation—in fact, I back them to finish in the top half of the table—but they still need a bit more class in attack." — "Sunday Dispatch."

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"Luton deserved to win because of their superiority in the first-half but they jeopardised their chances by the way in which they frittered away opportunities in front of goal.

"Luton found that the sticky turf cut down their smoothness in attack but newcomer Jim Fleming made a pleasing debut." — "News of the World."

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"This clash, worth four points to the winners, exposed Huddersfield's limitations. Forward, they tested Standen only twice, with a Kerray drive in the 20th minute and a fierce shot from O'Grady in the closing seconds." — "Daily Mail."