

TOWN HAD TO FIGHT ALL THE WAY

LUTON TN. 1, HUDDERSFIELD TN. 0

TWO more points from the fourth home match to be won in succession further eased the Town's anxieties about their position in the lower half of the table, but they were forced to fight much harder against Huddersfield this afternoon than in recent games.

For that they had partly themselves to blame because they had sufficient scoring chances in the first half to have put themselves in easy street by half-time. During that period they had three quarters of the play, but a combination of rugged defence and bad finishing deprived them of goals.

Chief offender was Turner who, however, atoned by securing what turned out to be the winner four minutes after half-time to bring his total for the season to 15, nine of which have come in the last six matches, all from centre-forward, which goes a long way towards proving that the Town have solved their problem here. But this was not one of Turner's best games because he found the tall Coddington much of a barrier.

Curiously, it was not until Huddersfield found themselves in arrears that they were seen other than as a team struggling to ward off the distinct threat of relegation.

When the improvement came it was marked chiefly by their great determination, particularly in defence, and by their weakness in front of goal. They had two distinct chances of levelling matters, but missed them.

For the Town this was no comfortable victory. Huddersfield made them fight until the very last kick. The game did not produce the fast, direct football and thrills of recent games and for this the pitch was a culprit.

Of the Town forwards I liked particularly Fleming on his League debut because he showed continually that he has a football brain and was always trying to use the ball to advantage. With Tracey, who was not so successful after the interval, he shared the first half forward honours. Brown had a very quiet afternoon indeed and Ashworth came back after a rather poor first-half display.

In the circumstances, the defence did a great job, with Groves blanketing the middle effectively and Bramwell again impressing the home fans. At the outset I thought McNally was going to make the mistake of giving O'Grady too much room, but he closed up afterwards.

Standen's handling was clean throughout and he made one great save in the closing minutes. At wing-half the Town were pretty well served by Morton and McGuffie.

All in all, it was a satisfactory result.

Attendance: 11,219.