

NO EXCUSE COULD BE FOUND FOR THIS

Curtain Rung Down In Atmosphere Of Boredom

By Chiltern

WHAT THE
OTHER
CRITICS
SAID

LUTON TOWN 0, SCUNTHORPE UNITED 0

EVEN when all the deterrents to skilful football—a difficult, sticky pitch, the end-of-the season atmosphere and the weakening of both teams—were taken fully into account, an excuse could not be found for the sheer mediocrity of the play we saw when the curtain was rung down at Kenilworth-road.

It was an exhibition singularly short of the basic skills of the game and it just had nothing to commend it.

Had there been a goal or two, the long-suffering fans would have had something to cheer them up, but even that was denied them.

Goalless draws can be exciting on occasion, but there was so little promise of a score that what resulted was sheer boredom, and the spectators showed their disapproval with an outbreak of slow handclapping during the closing stages.

While this sort of demonstration is something that is frowned upon generally, the only wonder on Saturday was that it was so long delayed.

Explanation may be contained in the fact that the crowd of 8,373 was the lowest on a Saturday for several years, and that they represented the hardest core of supporters with more patience than the others.

Most salient feature, maybe, was the fact that neither team boasted in their forward line a ball player worthy of the name.

As a result, such openings as were created came more by accident than design, and the shooting of either attack was never accurate enough to hold out much hope that two most capable goalkeepers would be beaten.

Both Baynham and Turner were given the opportunity to make some smart saves, and their handling of the ball and their clever anticipation, were easily the most pleasing features of this drab occasion.

DEFENCE WAS SOUND

There could be no valid complaint about the work of the Town defence in which Bramwell managed to pull himself above the ruck of the general mediocrity to show touches of real class against a dangerous, experienced winger, and McNally had little difficulty in keeping quiet the young Thorpe.

While he is not the commanding, dominating personality the Town are looking for at centre-half, Collins has put up some useful displays when he has been called upon in recent weeks and although Morton and Pacey were sound enough defensively, their constructive work was not such to help improve the situation.

Forward, the Town had little to offer, with Dixon having such a thin time in the middle that he was switched to the right wing midway through the second half.

This brought Fleming to inside-left and Morton to centre-forward, with McGuffie, who had produced a couple of notable

drives, but little else, moving to right-half.

These changes failed to bring about the improvement hoped for because Morton had no support and Fleming showed no more ability to use the ball with accuracy than he had on the wing.

Most potential threat came from the hard-working Ashworth but he, like Legate, suffered from the general lack of support.

LUTON TOWN.—Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Collins, Pacey; Fleming, Ashworth, Dixon, McGuffie, Legate.

SCUNTHORPE UNITED.—Turner; John, Hemstead; Sharpe, Horstead, Neale; Marriott, Kaye, Thomas, Bonson, Thorpe.

Referee.—F. Cowen, Manchester.

"Neither team deserved to win so honour was satisfied—but not the spectators who began drifting home long before the end."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"Luton got a well-merited slow handclap. Luckily for them, Scunthorpe were little better forward. Luton were best served by Ron Baynham and John Bramwell."—"News of the World."

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"The real reason for the dull deadlock was that both forward lines lacked ball control and constructive ability. With no maximum to the wage scale one wonders for what salary most of the 10 forwards on view would qualify."—"Sunday Express."

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"Careless Luton, though often just going through a drab drill, did manage to get in a few shots to make Scunthorpe goalkeeper, Turner, make some daring saves. But Turner had it a lot easier than Ron Baynham."—"The People."