

Last Minute And Town Scrape Home

By Chiltern

Luton Town 2, Northampton Town 1

STREAKILY, and Northampton fans will say luckily with some justification, the Town qualified for the second round of the Football League Cup at Kenilworth-road last night before a crowd of 7,482.

Much of the drama in this hard-fought game was packed into the last four minutes and began at a stage when the Town were a goal ahead.

Northampton seemed to have earned a replay with an equaliser after 86 minutes, but with a bare minute remaining Gordon Turner, the Town's hero so many times, snatched the winner for them.

For a long time it looked as if the Town would get through by virtue of a lucky own-goal affair. In fact, for a long while there was a grave doubt about whether they would get through at all because the Third Division side were the more thrustful for nearly the whole of the first half.

But for some solid play by Cope, Bramwell and Reed and some grand saves by Baynham, Northampton would certainly have been ahead at the interval.

By far the more shooting came from them and the Town forwards, re-cast through the absence of Ashworth, seldom moved smoothly as a unit.

The second half showed the Town in rather a better light, but they were never able to achieve the superiority their status entitled them to expect, and they were thrown out of their stride by the quick, hard Northampton tackling that caused them to be debited with a number of free-kicks.

Although Cliff Holton, former Watford and Arsenal player, was in the team sent by Northampton, it was then realised that he was ineligible through not having been registered for the requisite 14 days, and he had to stand down.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Reed, Bramwell; Morton, Cope, Groves; Walden, Turner, Lornie, McKechnie, Fleming.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN: Caine; Foley, Claypole; Cooke, Branston, Leck; Dixon, Everitt, Terry, Mills, Lines.

Referee: J. R. Osbourne, Ipswich.

Northampton were the more effective side in the early minutes, and Everitt was out of luck with a hard drive that cannoned off the legs of Terry.

With the Town taking a long time to settle down, Northampton continued to look the more dangerous, and Dixon was only inches too high with a raking drive.

However, after 10 minutes, the Town broke away to take the lead in fortunate fashion. McKechnie was left with a chance, but his shot was going wide until FOLEY rushed across at great speed to put the ball in the corner of his own net in his attempt to clear.

How The Goals Came

FOLEY (own goal) for Luton after ten minutes.

COOKE for Northampton after 86 minutes.

TURNER for Luton after 89 minutes.