

ROTHERHAM WERE BETTER MUDLARKS

Wrong Tactics By Town In League Cup-Tie

By CHILTERN

61/62 (LC)

ROTHERHAM UNITED 2, LUTON TOWN 0

CHIEFLY because their tactics on a badly waterlogged pitch were unhappily chosen, the Town bade farewell to the Football League Cup at Millmoor on Tuesday evening, when the bad weather cut the crowd to only 5,176.

Whereas Rotherham kept the ball moving about briskly, the Town were too often running with it and persisting in using the short pass, and generally keeping it too close.

Even so, they had their chances, perhaps more of the close range variety than came the way of Rotherham, but their finishing lacked the decision that has marked so many of their matches this season.

However, victory was not yielded without a determined fight and, considering the circumstances the team produced some good football.

Heavy rain all day, had left pools of water standing on some parts of the pitch, which meant that the ball unexpectedly stopped at times, while off other parts of the surface, it skidded sharply.

So, consistent accuracy was an impossibility and Rotherham's more forthright tactics won them the day. Even so, they were fortunate not to go into arrears when Turner found a way through but, in his attempt to attain a position from which it would have been certain that he would score, he delayed too long and was tackled.

In lucky fashion, Rotherham took the lead after 35 minutes when a corner from Wilson came over and Standen and Bramwell

got in the way of each other at the near post.

Because Bramwell was so close, STANDEN could not get a clear punch at the ball and the ball flew into the net, with the goalkeeper's fist, rather than the left-back's head, appearing to make the last contact with the ball.

With Rotherham defending the "deep" end in the second half, the Town had a good deal of pressure in the early stages, but the covering of the home defence was so good and their tackling so hard, that it was only seldom that the Town could manage a clear shot at Morritt.

However, Walden did manage one from 20 yards that flew inches too high, but the narrowest escapes came for the Town in a hectic few minutes during which McNally headed off the goal-line and the ball was deflected on to their bar following an indirect free-kick.

Then Standen pushed a shot from Weston on to the bar, but the Town came again and McKechnie should have equalised, but he hesitated too long.

Second goal for the home team came 18 minutes from time when WESTON blasted a way through without being tackled effectively and beat Standen from 20 yards.

Even after that, the Town had chances, but they were not quick enough to accept them.

HARD BATTLING DEFENCE

Throughout, the Town defence put up a hard, determined fight, with Collins battling away successfully, McNally having another good match, as did Bramwell, despite the danger that came from Wilson.

There were several good saves by Standen who generally handled the greasy ball well and Morton was more effective than Groves who was one of the short-pass culprits.

Another was Turner, who would persist in carrying the ball and trying to beat opponents in conditions that cried out for more forthright play.

Due to the fact that he had a recurrence of leg trouble, McKechnie faded out after a quite bright first half, Ashworth was always working and even though Fleming's finishing was again not up to standard, he was the more effective winger.

ROTHERHAM UNITED. — Morritt; Perry, Morgan; Lambert, Madden, Waterhouse; Wilson, Weston, Houghton, Kirkman, Butler.

LUTON TOWN. — Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Collins, Groves; Walden, Ashworth, Turner, McKechnie, Fleming.

Referee.—J. R. Loynton, Solihull.