

FIGHTING TOWN HELD LEAGUE LEADERS

Dramatic Scenes After Turner's Late Equaliser

By CHILTERN

LIVERPOOL 1, LUTON TOWN 1

61/62
NOTHING else but an all-out display of fighting spirit and a splendid determination not to give in, and the Town would have provided Liverpool with two more points in their drive to regain their place in the First Division.

In the end, the Town did what they have accomplished on their three previous visits to this ground and came away with half the spoils, much to the disgust of the Liverpool fans who blamed the referee for the loss at a point.

That rather clouded, biased viewpoint arose from a stirring finish during which Liverpool, backed by Turner's dramatic equaliser three minutes from the end, threw everything into attack in an effort to regain the lead.

During a tremendous scene in front of the Town goal in the closing seconds, the ball struck the Town bar twice and there was a whl for a penalty as the fans thought that McNally had headed.

Rightly, and bravely in the circumstances, the referee refused the appeals and, immediately afterwards, McNally while admitting an attempt to handle, said that he failed to reach the ball, something that was corroborated by Standen.

What the livid Liverpool fans got was that their team should it have been in the position of being to make such a late rally cause they always enjoyed a bigger share of the play and cut it some fine openings by their attractive play in midfield.

What stopped them from scoring the goals that would have assured them of victory was a combination of their own poor finishing and the doggedness and tire covering of the Town defence.

When Liverpool took the lead after only six minutes, things looked black for the Town, especially as Liverpool were moving the ball about quickly and smoothly in midfield.

The goal followed a free kick awarded for a foul by Groves and when the ball came over from Milne, no one moved towards it though it seemed that either Standen or Groves could have done so.

SCORER LEWIS WAS A CULPRIT

That moment of misunderstanding gave LEWIS his opportunity and he hurled himself at the ball to head it in low just inside the post.

Although Lewis was their only scorer, he was also the biggest Liverpool culprit in the matter of missed chances.

By defending grimly and overcoming the fact that their forwards could make little progress, the Town limited the lead to a single goal at half-time and then survived a barrage in the early minutes after the interval.

After that, they began to do some pressing on their own account and Ashworth twice went very near to putting them level. Slater making a difficult save on each occasion.

However, the more persistent and more dangerous raiding still came from Liverpool and, after Pacey had deflected with his head a scoring shot by Milne, McNally twice scooped the ball off the goal-line.

Not that the game was one-sided in the matter of escapes because White performed a similar feat twice at the other end.

As the closing stages approached, Ashworth and McKechnie switched and instructions went to Turner to lie further upfield.

Almost immediately, the changes paid off because Turner, closing in from his favourite angle, caused Slater to go full length to save and Legate nearly managed to back heel the ball in from the rebound.

TURNER DUMBFOUNDED LIVERPOOL

In point of fact the danger was never cleared and when the ball came back into the middle, TURNER was there to crash it into the roof of the net for an equaliser that dumbfounded Liverpool.

To all members of this gallant defence go high credit marks, none more than to the half-back line where Cope played what was easily his best game since he joined the Town and Pacey and Groves both accomplished wonders in the amount of work through which they got.

Hard battling all the way through, too, were McNally and Bramwell, with the former having rather less trouble with Acourt than Bramwell encountered from Callaghan, who was always a dangerous raider.

From Standen, too, there was an excellent display and he pulled off two or three saves in the second-half which were in the wonder class.

Forward, the picture was not quite so bright because there was still the lack of a ball player to act as the link. Turner tried to do it among his other duties, but he is of far more value when he can concentrate on the hunt for goals.

With Ashworth, who was always working, Turner was the best of the front line and Legate always promised a lot if he could receive a fully effective service of the ball, which he did not.

Main weakness was on the

right wing where Fleming had a poor match and McKechnie, though always trying and fighting, did not accomplish all that much.

LIVERPOOL.—Slater; White, Byrne; Milne, Yeats, Leishman; Callaghan, Lewis, St. John, Melia, Acourt.

LUTON TOWN. — Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Pacey, Cope, Groves; Fleming, McKechnie, Turner, Ashworth, Legate.

Referee.—J. R. Loynton, Solihull. Attendance.—34,924.