

LEADERS WERE LET OFF LIGHTLY

Town Were Well Worth A Bigger Victory

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, LIVERPOOL 0

FAR from a true picture is indicated by the score-line which could be read to indicate that the Town scraped through. Nothing could be further from the truth because had they three or four goals in hand at the end, they would not have been flattered.

That they did not finish in that happy position was due to a combination of brilliance by Furnell and the frittering away of two simple chances during the second half.

Although Liverpool had their share of the play, their much-vaunted attack was thrown out of its stride so thoroughly by the splendid covering and hard tackling of the defence, that it was seldom that the Town goal was in real danger.

Even before the Town took the lead in the 13th minute, Furnell had made two wonder saves to deprive the Town of the tonic of early goals.

How he reached a deliberately made lob by Turner I shall never know, and, shortly afterwards, from near the edge of the penalty area, he saved from Ashworth.

However, there was nothing he could do about the header by PACEY from a free-kick by Fleming, after Bramwell had been pulled down by Byrne.

That was one of many stoppages that punctuated this tense struggle in which Liverpool seemed taken completely by surprise by the way in which the Town tackled their task.

After the first few minutes when they nearly gained a shock early goal, Liverpool never looked the part of League leaders in attack.

SOLID KELLY

Watched by the Scottish team manager, St. John was played out of the game by Kelly, who was completely solid and allowed nothing to pass him down the middle.

Add to that the fact that Hunt was only a pale shadow of the man who has scored 37 goals this season, due in no small measure to the close attentions of Pacey, and Melia's scheming came unstuck against the marking of Groves, and it is fairly easy to see how Liverpool failed.

More than that, there was the undeniable fact that neither Calla-

ghan nor Acourt received the room they needed in which to manipulate the ball, which means that McNally and Bramwell were completely on top of their jobs.

That all added up to a quiet enough afternoon for Standen, whose most serious task came near the end, when Hunt emerged from obscurity to head in a cross from the left, fortunately straight at the goalkeeper.

Some of the tension should have been taken out of the play late in the second half when Turner, in a good position, missed his kick completely from a cross by Fleming, and McKechnie, to whom the ball ran, sliced it wide.

Then, Ashworth left no more than 10 yards from goal with a through pass by Groves, lifted the ball too high.

However, the big point was that openings which have been so scarce recently, were created and, despite the misses, there was a 100 per cent improvement in the forward play.

ASHWORTH'S DASH

Much of this could be traced to the switching of Turner and Ashworth because it allowed the former more freedom of movement in midfield and enabled Ashworth to use his dash and enthusiasm to torment Yeats.

In much better form, too, was Fleming who, early on, gained the ascendancy over Byrne and, more than that, used the ball much more accurately than has been his wont.

McKechnie also played his part well and although Morton was not an unqualified success at outside-right, he at least showed a brand of determination that was welcome.

LUTON TOWN. — Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Morton, Turner, Ashworth, McKechnie, Fleming.

LIVERPOOL. — Furnell; Byrne, Moran; Milne, Yeats, Leishman; Callaghan, Hunt, St. John, Melia, Acourt.

Referee. — J. Carr, Sheffield.
Attendance—9,086.