

SUNDERLAND GAIN FIRST WIN HERE

But Turner Should Have Saved Town A Point

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, SUNDERLAND 2

YET another story of insufficient construction in mid-field and no real goal threat was unfolded by the Town forwards against Sunderland at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

Upshot was that Sunderland who used to be regarded as chopping blocks for Luton, won here for the first time, thanks to a missed penalty by Turner who had this golden chance to save a point only four minutes after Sunderland had gone ahead for the first time.

It came in the 75th minute when McKechnie, who looked like scoring, was heavily flooded by Ashurst no more than six yards from goal, but Montgomery anticipated the direction of Turner's shot and made a smart save.

That was the Town's last chance because Sunderland's defence left no more gaps and they held on to their narrow lead comfortably enough.

When the Town took an early lead through PACEY the minds of the loyal supporters must have gone back some years to the time when Sunderland were regularly thrashed here.

However, the more cautious probably reserved judgment because the goal was a rather fortunate affair with a half-hit shot by Pacey going through a crowd of players and rolling into the net with the unsighted Montgomery able to do nothing about it.

Always, Sunderland were the smoother working in attack, but their splendid build-up in midfield availed them surprisingly little

at close quarters which was a tribute to the stubborn way in which the Town defence fought.

A strong wind of which the Town had first advantage added to the difficulties posed by the lively ball and at, half-time, it seemed more than likely that the Town's single goal was no sort of insurance against defeat.

WIND HELPED IN THE BALL

So it proved because Sunderland were level in the third minute of the second half when a swinging centre by OVERFIELD eluded the clutching fingers of Standen, who says that the wind helped the ball into the net.

Always, Sunderland looked the more able side, until it came to the matter of finishing off their approach work, in which they were surprisingly slovenly.

On the other hand, the Town were just not creating openings, and it was not surprising when Sunderland went ahead after 71 minutes, with the marksman the stand-in for International Anderson, HARVEY.

Kelly was penalised for obstructing Clough, though Manager Sam Bartram's opinion afterwards was that the centre-forward committed the first offence.

However, the referee awarded an indirect free-kick inside the penalty area, from which the ball was switched to Harvey, who, unmarked, blazed the ball just under the bar from 20 yards.

DEFENCE WAS ADEQUATE

Defensively, the Town were adequate enough, with McNally, Kelly and Pacey perhaps the pick, though Bramwell did quite well and Groves got through a tremendous amount of work.

Nor could there be any complaint about Standen, who made some splendid saves.

Apart from Clarke, who made a most favourable impression in the first half and showed more imagination than most of his colleagues, it is difficult to discover much to praise in the forward line.

From the inside-forward trio there was much ineffective work, and Ashworth was scarcely allowed a kick at the ball by Rookes, a last-minute deputy for the Eire International, Hurley.

Turner did not accomplish much, while McKechnie was too often waiting for the ball to come to him and was frequently caught in possession.

Which leaves Fleming, whom I did not think had a bad game, and he certainly used the ball with more accuracy than he does on some occasions.

LUTON TOWN: Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Clarke, Turner, Ashworth, McKechnie, Fleming.

SUNDERLAND: Montgomery; Irwin, Ashurst; Harvey, Rookes, McNab; Hooper, Herd, Clough, McPheat, Overfield.

Referee: C. W. Kingston, Newport, Mon. Attendance: 9,571.