

FREAK GOAL SAVED THE TOWN A POINT

By CHILTERN

62/63

LUTON TOWN 2, LEEDS UNITED 2

WHEN Leeds went into a two-goals lead after 23 minutes at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, few would have given much for the Town's chances of finishing the match with a point.

For once in a way, though, luck was on their side, or rather Leeds were dead out of it because they suffered a bad blow in the 35th minute when their clever inside-right Bremner was carried off with a damaged ankle.

True, he returned for the second half, but was much of a passenger on the wing and by that time, the Town had got back into the game with a goal from the penalty spot by TURNER after 39 minutes when Reaney sent Walden sprawling.

Both Leeds goals could be attributed to poor covering in the middle of the field and STORRIE, getting a second attempt at a chance after Standen had

pushed out his first, put them ahead after 14 minutes.

Nine minutes later, Cope misjudged the flight of a high, through ball as Storrie went up with him and COLLINS was left with a clear run to goal which he ended by cleverly lobbing the ball into the net.

Although the Town had a fair amount of the subsequent play, they found difficulty in reaching close quarters because of the efficiency with which Leeds packed their penalty area and it was much the same story in the second half.

To a large extent, Leeds were content to hang on to their lead and also try to help things along by time-wasting tactics. These were the indirect result of them losing a point because Mason handled just outside the penalty area and had his name taken by the referee for holding up the taking of the free kick.

FORTUNATE EQUALISER

When this was finally pushed through, Turner took a swing at the ball, did not get hold of it squarely and it bounced against the legs of McNALLY and trickled into the net for a fortunate equaliser.

While there was no sort of evidence that the problem of the inside - forward positions was solved because McKechnie had a thin time and Fleming ran into too much trouble, there was much to be pleased with about the wing play.

Clapton, making his debut in the Town's colours, looks like being a considerable asset because he used the ball most accurately and Walden, too, was dangerous, while there were signs of improvement from Turner.

That gap down the middle was eradicated to a marked extent in the second half when Cope settled down a little more happily but, quite often, it was as well that McNally and Bramwell were in staunch mood and that Morton and Pacey were able to cover a great deal of ground.

Except for some suspicion about the first goal, there was nothing for which Standen could be criticised on his first senior appearance of the season.

LUTON TOWN: Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Cope, Pacey; Clapton, Fleming, Turner, McKechnie, Walden.

LEEDS UNITED: Sprake; Reaney, Mason; Addy, Charlton, Hunter; Johnson, Bremner, Storrie, Collins, Johannesson.

Referee: R Spittle, Yarmouth.