

SAME OLD FORWARD FAILINGS OF TOWN

Never Looked Likely To Fight Their Way Back

By CHILTERN

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 2, LUTON TOWN 0

ON their last three appearances on the Leeds-road ground, the Town have avoided defeat, but once they fell into arrears on Saturday, there was little or no prospect of them gaining even one point to boost their hopes of avoiding the drop to the Third Division.

In fact, long before the end, it was patent that they were going down to their fifth consecutive defeat and, once again, the failing could be pin-pointed on the attack which showed little sense of urgency and less thrust.

Watching them from the stand was Alex Alston, and the pity was that he was not on the field to bring some much-needed enthusiasm and determination to this front line.

Only member of it to earn star rating was Davies who, however, will not prove to be the match-winner for which he has potential until better support is forthcoming.

Particularly in the first half, he worried Taylor quite a lot, but had to play far too much of a solo role and became increasingly shut out by a defence that was seldom pulled out of position.

Only other forward with any pretension to causing danger was Turner, but, like Davies, he needs better support than was forthcoming in this match, and he was threatening only in flashes.

With Walden absent through injury, there was a distressing weakness on the wings where Clapton did not use his speed to the best advantage and was comfortably held by Coddington who was third choice for the left-back position.

While Jardine worked willingly enough, he did not suggest that he can be the answer to the left-wing problem, and McGuffie, too, often caught in possession, had an unproductive afternoon.

DEFENCE'S BURDEN IS TOO HEAVY

Until some power is obtained in attack, the Town will continue to lose matches because the defence is being asked to carry far too heavy a burden.

All too often, the ball is coming back at them before they have time to take a breather and, while there are limitations in this department, they are being called upon to carry a huge responsibility.

Particularly in away games, the loss of only one goal assumes tragic proportions because of the lack-lustre look which the forwards are wearing.

This happened again on Saturday when, after an en-

couraging sort of start in which Huddersfield did not pose much threat, the home team became increasingly dangerous.

However, they were driven off by some determined work in defence until the 31st minute when O'Grady, who had set too many problems for McNally, stabbed the ball across, and STOKES, moving rapidly, met the ball with his head as Pacey came in to challenge.

With great power and accuracy, the ball flew into the net, leaving Baynham helplessly placed and that was the start of the rot so far as the Town were concerned.

What finally sealed their fate was an unfortunate happening five minutes from half-time when a mistake by Turner let in Bettany, who made an awkward sort of cross.

KELLY tried to clear it first time, but the ball sliced off his foot and went into the corner of the net farthest away from Baynham.

LAST-DITCH WORK IN DEFENCE

In a colourless second-half display, the Town were never in the hunt and the only wonder was that Huddersfield did not increase their lead materially.

This was partly due to their somewhat lethargic approach in front of goal, to some grand goalkeeping by Baynham and the last-ditch defence of Kelly and Daniel.

Baynham made a series of excellent saves, Kelly was always difficult to pass, and Daniel made a good job of accepting his rather belated chance in the first team.

Credit to McNally for the way in which he kept going despite the run-around he received from O'Grady in the first half and this was reflected in the improvement he achieved afterwards.

Midfield control of the play was what the Town badly lacked and neither Groves nor Pacey was able to get a real grip of things, with the result that Huddersfield largely were able to dictate the way in which things should go.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN:
Wood; Atkins, Coddington; Bettany, Taylor, Dinsdale; McHale, White, Stokes, Massie, O'Grady.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Daniel; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Clapton, Turner, Davies, McGuffie, Jardine.

Referee: W. E. Haynes, Wigan.
Attendance: 10,279.