

Road To Safety

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LUTON TOWN 3, PLYMOUTH A. 0

DESPITE their much-changed forward line, the Town took what could be a decisive step in their fight to avoid relegation with a clear-cut victory over Plymouth Argyle at Kenilworth-road this afternoon.

Once they got their heads in front—and it took them 44 minutes to do so, through a great goal by Dave Pacey—they were never in much danger.

Plymouth turned out to be a sluggish, casual-looking outfit, and the first half, apart from Pacey's goal, turned out to be a boring episode. The bare, dusty pitch and the lively, bouncing ball were partly to blame, but once the Town gained the confidence of being a goal ahead they settled down to play constructive football.

Brilliantly led again by Ron Davies, who is thrusting his way forward as one of the most able centre-forwards in the Second Division, the Town gave the Plymouth defence plenty to think about. A grand goal by young Matt Brennan, his first in senior football, really put them high and dry, because, apart from McParland, Plymouth never suggested that they had the forward power to pull back such arrears.

In Brennan, the Town seem to have a real winner for the future. For a player of such limited experience, he has an excellent sense of the game, and with Davies he shared the forward honours today. With a reasonable amount of luck he might well have had a hat-trick.

The inclusion of McGuffie brought a greater supply of through passes than Davies has enjoyed for quite a long time, and although McGuffie looks slow at times, he at least does not waste very much.

The same applied to Clapton, though he was obviously in need of serious match practice after his seven-weeks lay-off, and he developed cramp during the second half. On the other wing, Riddick, playing out of position, was not a success, though he worked willingly.

All too rarely this season have the Town been able to keep a clean sheet, and they did so on this occasion aided, I am glad to say, by a return to complete confidence by Ron Baynham.

Kelly, once again, was a dominant figure in the middle. Daniel and Bramwell were resourceful full-backs, and Morton and Pacey had little difficulty in keeping quiet a strangely subdued but obviously talented pair of inside-forwards in McAnearney and O'Neil.

In the end it was a comfortable victory for the Town.

Attendance: 6,937.