

# BIG CROWD SAW TOWN

## LOSE TENSE FIGHT

### Disallowed Goal Was A Severe Blow To Them

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 0, SUNDERLAND 3

IF ever the stage was set for a Town triumph, it was at Kenilworth-road on Monday evening when the biggest League crowd for a couple of seasons, 16,410, was present to see a match that was absolutely vital to both teams, though for vastly differing reasons.

Naturally enough, there was a deal of tension in this clash in which the Town fought hard enough, but did not have the best of fortune, though they really made a present to Sunderland of a couple of goals.

It was always pretty obvious that the team to score the first goal would reap a tremendous advantage, and it fell to Sunderland with a header of which Dixie Dean or Tommy Lawton in their heyday would have been proud.

A vicious swerve on the ball caused McNally to concede a corner which Davison placed none too well, but SHARKEY went up to it, reached the ball with his head and sent it hurtling into the net, beating the frantically diving Baynham.

Most of the Town's efforts had been longish range affairs, mainly from Turner and McGuffie, and then, with about 10 minutes to go to half-time, came the Town's worst piece of bad luck.

Davies went through brilliantly with a pass from Turner to steer the ball into the far corner of the net, well out of the reach of Montgomery.

However, the Luton joy was short-lived because the referee disallowed what most home fans were convinced was a good goal, on the grounds of offside.

#### SECOND GOAL FINISHED IT

It was a blow from which the Town never really recovered, but the one that really finished them was a goal by MULHALL a minute after half-time.

A bad clearance by Daniel went straight to the winger who tried a speculative sort of shot which, to the Town's horror, got in under the body of the diving Baynham, who was probably unsighted by Daniel.

After that, Sunderland more or less took control, particularly in the middle of the field, but the Town had what seemed to be legitimate claims for a penalty turned down.

This happened when McKechnie delayed making his centre and was brought down by Nelson, but the referee's only reaction was to award a corner.

There had been another borderline case in the first half when McGuffie was brought down, and the Town had a free

kick almost on the 18 yards line.

However, there was not really the prospect of a successful Town rally, and when the third goal came five minutes from the end, it did not seem to matter.

#### HAD PULL ON THE WINGS

This was an odd affair because the scorer, SHARKEY looked to be yards offside until Kelly who, apparently, had been tying up his boot laces, appeared on the scene, but too late to do much about it.

Victory, in the end, went to the better balanced, more accomplished team and where Sunderland had the greatest pull was on their wings.

Clapton had a dreadful time and McKechnie, a late choice for the injured Jardine, was much too slow and little of value came from either flank.

Another factor was that Davies, who is now attracting the scouts in droves, was pretty well shut out by the tall, sound Hurley and the centre-forward was not helped by the fact that the ball continually reached him in the air.

Davies tried hard enough and so did Turner and McGuffie, but loopholes were difficult to find in the face of hard tackling and good covering.

Disappointment in defence was Daniel, who has been playing so well, but he rarely got to grips with the clever Mulhall and McNally was rather more successful against Davison.

Both Morton and Bramwell worked tremendously hard to turn the tide and despite Sharkey's two goals, Kelly did a useful job.

There was blame for Baynham for the second goal, but he must have seen the ball very late, too late in fact to get down properly.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Daniel, McNally; Morton, Kelly, Bramwell; Clapton, Turner, Davies, McGuffie, McKechnie.

SUNDERLAND: Montgomery; Nelson, Ashurst; Anderson, Hurley, McNab; Davison, Herd, Sharkey, Crossan, Mulhall.

Referee: W. Clements, West Bromwich.