

A PROMISING START TO NEW SEASON

LUTON TOWN 1, WALSALL 0

NOT all that impressively, but fairly safely just the same, the Town began the season with two points at Kenilworth-road, this afternoon, and that, after all, was the main object of the exercise.

Probably from the spectacle point of view it was unfortunate that their first opponents should have been Walsall, with their experienced blanket-type defence and their liking for offside tactics.

To a marked extent, the Walsall approach was negative and the game became more and more of a stalemate as time wore on, with few clear-cut openings accruing to either team. As a result of the Walsall tactics, the Town forwards had rather a thin time and I do not think that this was a fair occasion on which to judge them. For one thing, Davies, by one means or another, was almost completely shut in, and there were a number of occasions when McPherson was allowed to get away with nudging in the back that had the effect of throwing the centre-forward off balance.

Just twice, Davies, who was being watched by a Middlesbrough scout, brought the best out of White, and close-marking such as this is something he must expect in view of the reputation he has built up.

Of the inside trio, I thought Turner, who scored the all-important goal, the most impressive, and I would reserve judgment on Salisbury, whose first appearance this was.

Occasionally, he came into the picture with deft touches and, two or three times, racing down the middle, was close to scoring.

But, whether he will prove to be the inside-left the Town need, remains to be seen.

Of the wingers, Walden, when he did not tend to run into trouble, was much more effective, because Jardine seldom got the better of Palin, and on this showing, outside-left is one problem that will have to be tackled. Defensively, there could be no complaint. Fincham proved to be what the Town have needed these last three seasons at least, a dominant figure in the penalty area with the ability to head clear much of the high cross stuff from either wing.

On this form, he will be a decided asset, and he received good support from Morton and Pacey, while Daniel and Bramwell held in check two dangerous wingers. Luton had their big slice of luck early in the second half when Baynham was in trouble for just about the only time, when a shot by Fell beat him and hit the post.

So, the first match is over, successfully, but it may take a week or two before we can really tell whether this attack can settle down into a dangerous, smooth-working unit, as it well may against a defence of less experience. In point of fact, the attendance was reasonably encouraging at 9,079, and will obviously grow if the Town can really hit a winning streak.