

NO AWAY SUCCESS FOR THE TOWN YET

More Penetration In Attack Is A Dire Need

By CHILTERN

WATFORD 2, LUTON TOWN 0

It is almost exactly 12 months and 21 League matches since the town won away from home, and the reason for this could be easily defined at Vicarage-road on Saturday.

There was a sad lack of penetration in attack and a reluctance for going across the field instead of taking the direct route for goal.

And on this showing, it is going to take more than the acquisition of Ray Smith to bring much-needed life to this forward line.

Yet the Town had more of the first-half play, during which McKechnie and Salisbury went close, but, in the main, their shooting was not powerful enough, nor accurate enough, to test fully a fine young goalkeeper Jennings.

On the other hand, Watford did not carry much threat up front either and, once again, the

Town looked any odds on reaching the interval on level terms.

But, as was the case at Port Vale earlier in the week, the last few minutes before the interval proved fatal and this seems to be a fateful period for the Town.

Until the 41st minute their defence seemed to be in complete command, and then came a sudden movement down the home right wing as the result of which, Oliver crossed the ball and HOWFIELD, who had got himself into the inside-left position, blazed away first time.

There seemed to be no particular danger because Baynham looked to have the ball covered, but, apparently, he slipped at the crucial moment and that was that.

Only previous serious shot Baynham had to save in the first half was one from Livesey, and Watford failed signally to take advantage of the stiff breeze.

WATFORD STRUCK AGAIN

At the start of the second half the Town looked as if they might make amends and made two or three dangerous raids in one of which Lownds headed just over.

However, with the game 57 minutes old, Watford struck again when Baynham came out to tussle with Livesey whom he seemed to obstruct.

The ball ran loose to HARRIS, who took deliberate aim and it whistled past Bramwell and the badly unsighted Baynham.

So far as the Town were concerned, that was the end, because they were little in the picture as a dangerous force afterwards, and long before the finish it was obvious that there was no danger to the Watford lead.

As a spectacle this was disappointing, because even though Watford housed their biggest crowd of the season, 13,250, there was little of the local derby atmosphere.

The one re-assuring thing about the Town's display was the general competency of their defence, in which Morton and Fincham were outstanding and Bramwell was little, if anything, behind their standard.

After his uncertain start to the season, Fincham has made great strides and he put Livesey, who can be a dangerous leader, out of the game.

TRIED TO DO TOO MUCH

Perhaps because of the knowledge of the indecision in the front line, Pacey tried to do too much and, as a result, left gaps, while Lownds had a useful sort of game.

Smith could not be described as being more than quietly effective on his debut, but there was not much help for him, and Walden's habit of running across the field with the ball must have been disconcerting to him.

Yet the newcomer looks as if he can do a useful job and was next to the hard-working McKechnie so far as the forward honours were concerned.

Walden had a poor game, Weir was far from being forceful enough and Salisbury was no more than an honest plodder.

WATFORD: Jennings; Bell, Nicholas; Crisp, Mancini, Gregory; Howfield, Fraser, Livesey, Oliver, Harris.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, Lownds; Walden, Smith, McKechnie, Salisbury, Weir.

Referee: J. S. Pickles, Stock-