

DEFENCE EARNED TOWN A POINT

Fincham Shone On His Return To Home Town

By CHILTERN

PETERBOROUGH 0, LUTON TOWN 0

[F, in the future anyone recalls the memory of this game, which I doubt, it will be purely on the score of the poor quality of the forward play on both sides and the comparative strengths of the defences which had matters pretty much their own way.

On the score of territorial play, Peterborough should have won because their pressure was always the more persistent, but their finishing against a Town defence that showed real grit and determination was very much below par.

True, Graham did get the ball into the Luton net on three occasions in the second half, but the offences that preceded these efforts were so flagrant that the Town had really no need to worry about the outcome.

There was momentary panic over the first one when Graham used a hand to get the ball under control before hooking it into the net, because the referee appeared to point towards the centre of the field.

However, he said afterwards, that he was signalling a free kick to the Town and, in any case, the linesman had his flag upraised. Hands was the cause of the second not counting and when the third came, Graham

had fouled Baynham as a prelude to gaining possession of the ball.

Apart from Dougan, who wandered from wing to wing in an effort to find room and to escape the clutches of Fincham, and to a lesser extent, Moulden, Peterborough's forwards made no real mark on the Town's defence.

FINCHAM CELEBRATES

In this, Fincham celebrated his return to his home town with a commanding performance during which he looked easily the most dominant player who has filled the position since the days of Sid Owen. Time and time again, he broke up attacks with firm tackles and he was very much the master in the air.

Alongside him, Pacey and McGuffie marked their men much more closely than they did at Bristol and from the former there was a much improved defensive display and fewer of the gap-leaving forays upfield.

McGuffie showed much more certainty in his tackling and this, combined with his ability to use the ball should now ensure him of a regular place that he has lost all too often in the end.

After some initial difficulty, Morton settled down to play in assured fashion and Bramwell performed a valuable role, despite the fact that he gave away several corners in what seemed to be unnecessary fashion.

FORWARDS DISAPPOINTED

So, the defence thoroughly deserved to keep their first blank sheet away from home this season, but of the forwards it was a different story.

What had to be taken into consideration, of course, was that injury deprived them of Fairchild, Smith and Turner who would have been in otherwise but, even so, the front line was a disappointment.

Although Riddick and Weir both worked hard, they had not sufficient authority in mid-field to take the control that was needed, and McKechnie, much in the clutches of Rankmore, had little support, though he did miss a good chance in the first half.

Occasionally, Walden showed that his former brilliance has not disappeared completely, but he was not consistent and the same applied to Jardine, who persisted in running into trouble when none really existed, but, who, for all that, showed dash and fighting spirit.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED:

Duff; Singleton, Sissons; Cooper, Rankmore, Pearce; Moulden, Horobin, Dougan, Graham, McNamee.

LUTON TOWN:

Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie; Walden, Riddick, McKechnie, Weir, Jardine. Referee: A. W. Sparling, Grimsby.

Attendance: 10,687.