

TOWN'S LUCK SEEMS TO BE ON THE TURN

O'Rourke's Goal Brought Them Invaluable Points By CHILTERN

SOUTHEND UNITED 0, LUTON TOWN 1

NOT before time, the luck seems to be turning in the Town's favour, judging from the events of this match at Roots Hall on Saturday when they were thought fortunate to collect two invaluable points from a scrappy match.

However, Southend could scarcely complain because they frittered away their scoring chances through indecision and slowness in front of goal and, generally, they played to the hands of the hard-tackling Town defence.

With an icy wind sweeping down the pitch and the ball not moving freely on a tacky surface, this was not the sort of a day for forwards, but Southend, who are not yet out of the fight against relegation themselves, squandered their better chance.

Chief offender was Conway, whom the Town tried to sign during last season, and against the close-bunching Town defence he had something of a nightmare match.

No less disappointing was the Town front line, though they did some excuse in that Reid went over on his ankle late in the first half and there was much swelling on the joint that he spent the rest of the match in the right wing, where he did some quite valuable work.

Earlier, although some of his distribution was inaccurate, he did sparked off such attacks as the Town made, which were not many, but with Walden at inside-left and continually getting himself into trouble, there is little cohesion about the attack after the interval.

McKECHNIE OUT OF TOUCH

For the most part, with McKechnie very much out of touch, O'ROURKE was left to fight a lone battle and it was by opportunism, finally, that earned the Town these somewhat unexpected points.

A pass by Pacey found him at the left wing and he chose to double back on his right foot, beating Costello on the side, before driving the ball hard past Goy.

After that, the Town played with more confidence and their victory could have been more ear-cut had McKechnie and O'Rourke accepted good chances that came their way.

However, that O'Rourke goal took the remaining stuffing out of the home team who never threatened to stage a successful rally.

Next to O'Rourke in the order of rating of the Town attack came Whittaker, the newcomer from Arsenal, who did not receive a great deal in the way of support but who showed ability to get the ball across accurately with his left foot and who wasted very little in the way of material.

Given time in which to settle down, he should prove to be an undoubted asset in the position which has caused the Town so much concern in the past.

DEFENCE HARASSED, BUT BRAVE

Basically, this second Town away League win and their first double of the season, was a triumph for the defence which is often worried and harassed and yet came through with a clean sheet which has been a rarity away from home this season.

Both Pacey and Lownds got through a tremendous amount of work and Caleb, after his usual quiet start, played on to give a most staunch display.

On balance, the much-improved McBain was the more insistent full-back because Bramwell was given something of a run around in the first half. Woodley, though he took a much tighter grip on the winger afterwards.

A knock on the ribs in the last minute of the game did not

deter Baynham who used his ripe experience on several occasions to get the Town out of trouble.

SOUTHEND UNITED: Goy; Costello, King; Bentley, Watson, Bradbury; Woodley, Gilfillan, Conway, Beesley, McKinven.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McBain, Bramwell; Pacey, Caleb, Lownds; Walden, McKechnie, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.

Referee: R. V. Spittle, Yar-mouth.