

WHITTAKER'S GOAL WORTH TWO POINTS

Sound Town Handicapped By Riddick's Injury

By Chiltern

COLCHESTER UNITED 0, LUTON TOWN 1

TO some extent, the balance, adversely affected by the home defeat on Saturday, was redressed by the Town on Monday evening when they gained a narrow, but deserved victory over Colchester at Layer-road and so completed the double over this team.

Both teams were handicapped, but the injury to Stark after 20 minutes did not affect his mobility so much as the one to Riddick two minutes after half-time.

Riddick received a nasty knock on the thigh muscle and although he remained in the middle, he found difficulty in contributing a great deal, though he kept on trying.

As a result much of the Town's play down the middle was held up prematurely and Colchester were enabled to get back on to the attack again.

However, although there was considerable pressure from the home team in the second half, it did not amount to much in terms of danger.

For this, there were two main reasons. First was the strength of the Town's defence, often reinforced, as it was in away matches in the successful away spell of last season, by Reid operating as a fourth half-back.

Second factor was the absence of a real plan by Colchester who were all hustle and bustle and who tended to crowd out each other in the penalty area.

In the early part of the game, Baynham made fine saves from Docherty and Stark, but the Town attack looked the more

dangerous and Reid with a power drive at the end of a long run brought Ames full length, while McKechnie was only a foot wide with a long-range attempt.

In another flurry of pressure, Ames saved well from Pleat and McKechnie and a shot by Riddick was deflected wide.

WHITTAKER'S FIRST FOR THE TOWN

Then, after 25 minutes came the all-important goal from WHITTAKER, who disposed Aitchison who tried to dribble inside his own penalty area and beat the dive of Ames with a well-directed, quickly-made low drive.

Strangely, because Whittaker does quite a bit of shooting at one time or another, this counted as his first success in the League since joining the Town.

Shortly afterwards, he could have got his name into the scoring list again but, with time in which to steady himself, he swung at a centre by Riddick and sent the ball wide.

For much of the first half the Town were in command, but, of course, they had to expect and were prepared for, a desperate onslaught by the home team afterwards.

Baynham was in action from Grice and Trevis, but the Town, despite their handicap in attack, kept breaking out of defence and Reid had a goal disallowed.

Offside was the reason and there could have been no more than inches in it as he shot delightfully on the half turn and left Ames helplessly placed.

In the final minutes, Salisbury missed an equaliser by inches and Colchester had a narrow escape when first Pleat, then Riddick sent the ball across the face of their goal.

There was a reassuring soundness about the Town defence which covered well and was hard in the tackle. When the pressure was at its height, Pacey and Fincham, in particular, did a magnificent job and Lownd completed a strong half-back line.

Both McBain and Bramwell mostly had control of the opposing wingers and both were shut out that they were often reduced to going in search of the ball.

Behind them, Baynham was in splendid form, especially in his judgment in cutting out material from the wings.

Forward, there was again hope from Pleat and Whittaker on the wings. Both were fast and clever, even if the former tended to try to beat one opponent too many, and but for O'Rourke been playing, better use might have been made of the centres they provided.

Riddick was a trier, but he had not the drive and punch to be a completely effective deputy for O'Rourke and McKechnie, though he worked hard, found few openings.

Quite the best of the initial trio was Reid who, apart from his invaluable work in defence, sparked off many dangerous runs from midfield.

COLCHESTER U.: Ames, Griffiths, Fowler; Trevis, Docherty; Price, Salisbury, Golly, Stark, Aitchison.

LUTON T.: Baynham; McBain, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, Lownd; Pleat, McKechnie, Riddick, Reid, Whittaker.

Referee: R. A. Paine, South.

Attendance: 5,115.