

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

SCORING CHANCES WENT BEGGING AGAIN

Over-eagerness causes goals to be missed

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, CHESTERFIELD 2

"Luton lost their unbeaten home record to Chesterfield. Fine goalkeeping by Osborne frustrated them, though too many of their final passes went astray." — "News of the World."

"Bang went the Luton home record on which they were pinning high hopes in view of their poor away record, and it was little consolation that they did not deserve to lose. They should, however, have learned from harsh experience that it is fatal not to exact full toll from front-of-goal chances."

"Opportunity after opportunity went begging, partly through over-eagerness and partly through carelessness in execution." — "Sunday Express."

"Luton have had to struggle in each division in which they have played during the last six years. And life is unlikely to be easier for them unless they make better use of their scoring chances than they did on this occasion."

"At least half a dozen from close range went begging, and Luton lost a game they should have won comfortably." — "Sunday Telegraph."

"Two blunders by an otherwise safe Luton defence cost them a match they should have won. In fact they carved enough openings for themselves to have won three games."

"As soon as the Luton forwards reached the target area they had no idea of how to beat Osborne, whose acrobatic goalkeeping prevented what could easily have become a rout." — "The People."

WHILE the Town continue to miss chances with the monotonous regularity they did against Chesterfield on Saturday, they will continue to struggle, and what made it worse was that these failings came sharp on the heels of similar shortcomings against Wrexham only two days before.

If only half the chances created in those two matches had been accepted, then the Town's goal average, instead of being on the wrong side, would be wearing a healthy look now.

Even Chesterfield officials admitted that they were lucky to get away with these points because they probably had no more than four or five clear-cut opportunities and took two of them, whereas the Town's chances must have numbered a dozen.

Why are goals being missed in such prodigal style? One reason, without doubt, is over-eagerness and twice in the second half we saw two forwards going for the same pass in front of goal and almost pushing each other out of the way.

What is needed is more composure and more clear thinking when these close-range chances occur, otherwise points will continue to be scarce.

Manager George Martin is happy that the chances are being created, but highly critical about the way in which they are being frittered away. However, he feels that this pattern cannot continue, and adds, "Somebody is going to catch a packet one of these days."

In this case, the goals did not come because of a mixture of bad play and bad luck and

it is fair to say that the ball is not running all that kindly in front of goal.

GOALKEEPER FOILED O'ROURKE

Watched by representatives of Ipswich and Coventry, O'Rourke did enough to have put himself back in the list of scorers, but was foiled by some fine goalkeeping by Osborne, who rated highly among the Chesterfield players.

Half a dozen times the centre-forward made goal-worthy attempts, and his only consolation was that he provided the pass from which STARK bundled the ball in for their only goal after 19 minutes.

That equalised one obtained by former Town player SALISBURY seven minutes after the start, and seemed to put the Town in a position of strength from which they could build a commanding lead.

However, despite the Town's undisputable superiority, the goals simply would not come, even though they always seemed to be imminent.

With their forward line switched, Chesterfield made a late rally and after the Town had survived the shock of

had survived the shock.
HENDERSON cracking the
ball against a post, they were
completely dismayed when the
same player took full advantage
of a gap in defence to
snatch the winner seven
minutes from time.

RIDDICK HIT THE WOODWORK

Even then, the Town should
at least have saved the game
because Riddick headed against
the woodwork from point
blank range and another
chance was allowed to go
astray.

Generally speaking, apart
from their goalmouth failings,
the Town showed improvement
on their previous display.

O'Rourke apart, none of the
forwards was strong enough in
finishing and Stark spoiled an
otherwise good display by
missing a couple of chances.

Better of the wingers was
Whittaker, though Riddick
coming in at the last moment
did a reasonable job on the
right wing, but Rioch was a
weak link at inside-right.

Outstanding in defence was
Reid, with Jardine running him
close for star rating, but both
Rivers and Moore were below
their recent form.

Thomson was steady, despite
again showing a tendency to
give his winger too much room,
and Tinsley had a fairly comfortable
afternoon.

LUTON TOWN — Tinsley
Thomson, Jardine, Reid,
Rivers, Moore, Riddick, Rioch,
O'Rourke, Stark, Whittaker.

CHESTERFIELD — Osborne,
Taylor, Sears, Clarke, Phillips,
Hughes, Godfrey, Henderson,
Hollett, Morton, Salisbury,
Referee — D. J. Lyddell
Birmingham. Attendance 4,800.