

Goals for Read, but French was the star

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 5, NOTTS COUNTY 1

CONSIDERING the appalling nature of the conditions after hours of continuous rain, this ranked as high entertainment value, with the County not done justice by the margin against them.

At the same time, all credit must go to the goal-snatching ability of the Town forwards, which has been so marked in home matches since their recent revival began, and the chief agent of destruction on this occasion was Tony Read, who has made the migration so successfully from goalkeeper to inside-right.

His hat-trick was the first of his senior career and there is no doubt that the middle goal of it could not have been more timely because it came at a time when the County, 3-1 down, were showing signs of getting back in the game.

Indeed, but for magnificent saves by Tinsley from Still and Shiels, they could have pulled back to within a goal and the fat could have been firmly in the fire.

Fortunately, the situation did not arise, because Read's goal in the 69th minute which counted as the Town's fourth removed much of the glitter from the County

It was an excellently worked affair, showing the value of the quick pass because French slipped the ball to O'Rourke, who passed to READ and he made no mistake.

Three minutes later, READ came racing in to connect with his head with a corner by Whittaker and that was virtually the end of the County.

Once again, there was an early success to the Town with WHITTAKER giving them the lead after three minutes. SHIELS, quite the County's best forward equalised five

minutes later, only for READ to re-adjust the balance and O'ROURKE made the position more tenable three minutes from half-time.

STAR RATING FOR FRENCH

While, of course, Read's opportunism entitled him to high honours, star rating, in my opinion, goes to French for a high-class display at inside-left, on his first sample of the position.

If he can take over the schemer role in this fashion, then goals must come freely, even though, on this occasion, O'Rourke was kept comparatively quiet. Not so Harber and Whittaker, though, who were tenacious, hard-battling wingers who always represented a danger.

Woods, without doubt has brought greater soundness to the defence and he had another splendid match, ably supported by Moore and Thomson, in particular.

From Reid, there was much invaluable covering, but his distribution was awry, which was perhaps understandable in the conditions, and Edwards, in difficulties at times, was just about adequate. Obviously, Tinsley is appreciating the increased assurance in front of him and is in remarkably good form at the moment.

LUTON TOWN.—Tinsley; Thomson, Edwards; Reid, Woods, Moore; Harber, Read, O'Rourke, French, Whittaker.

NOTTS COUNTY.—Butler; Hampton, Bircumshaw, Coates, Gibson, Sheridan; Bates, Moulden, Shiels, Still, Flower.

Referee.—G. W. T. Davis, Romford. Attendance: 6,486.