

LACK OF FINISH ROBBED TOWN

65/66

LINCOLN CITY 2, LUTON TOWN 2

I FIND myself tonight in a difficult situation. A point gained away from home, by any yardstick, is a good performance, but I have the feeling that at Lincoln the Town yielded one too many.

At half-time they were two goals up, could have been more, and generally were on top.

An early goal by Tony Read set the pattern, and Ray Whittaker seemed to have taken it up with another 13 minutes from half-time. All seemed plain sailing. Yet, my impression was that the Town were never playing as well as they can, chiefly because of deficiencies in the forward-line.

Here, few added to their reputations.

Highest mark I would give to Whittaker, for his tenacity. On the other wing, Harber was much subdued, and so, too, was O'Rourke. He missed an early chance, but later might have been affected by a couple of injuries.

French flits fitfully

Read worked hard enough without really getting into it, and French flitted into the game fitfully, without achieving any measure of dominance.

The Lincoln attack was spearheaded by Chapman, the player-manager that George Martin signed for Aston Villa as a youngster. Even though the centre-forward obtained both goals, I would not fault Town centre-half Woods. He was again outstanding, and some blame for the second goal must be attached to Tinsley, who otherwise was assured.

Reid, with a more attacking role than usual, did well, as did Moore, and there were hard, fighting displays from Thomson and Edwards.

At the end of the story an away point is always welcome, but the disappointment was that the Town definitely allowed Lincoln to get off the hook after they had them reeling. And that, in my book, points to a disappointing lack of thrust and determination in attack. Attendance: 2,784.