

TOWN DID NOT GET THE BREAKS

BARNSELEY 3, LUTON TOWN 0

THERE is no doubt that argument will rage tonight among the Town players about two decisions which contributed very largely to a defeat at Barnsley this afternoon which they scarcely deserved.

The first came near the interval when O'Rourke appeared to be fouled in the penalty area and no award came. The second happened eleven minutes from the end, when the Town were just one goal down and fighting hard for an equaliser. Woods was fouled, unnoticed by the referee, and as a direct result, Barnsley secured the second goal that finally killed Luton's hopes.

Barnsley's third goal, scored just before the end, did not matter much either way, except on the debit side of the goal average.

It was a match dominated by a wind of almost gale force, and when the Town reached half time still on level terms after putting up a fighting display, I thought their chances of gaining two valuable points were bright indeed.

Unfortunately, things did not turn out that way for them, mainly because the build-up in midfield, quite good at times, was not allied to thrust in front of goal. Barnsley made better use of their chances, and usually played better against the wind than they did when they had it at their backs.

Even when Kerr put Barnsley ahead soon after half-time, I thought the Town were in with a chance. They did plenty of pressing, but did not make the best use of the conditions being in their favour, and their shooting was not on the target.

O'Rourke, hard though he worked and even though he had the beating of Swallow on the ground, could not end his blank spell.

The experiment of playing Moore at inside-left paid off in the first half because of the tremendous amount of work he did in midfield.

Later, he switched with Rioch—a move, which, judging from the way things turned out, might have been made profitably earlier, because Rioch showed more idea than most about where the goal lay.

Read worked hard without much reward, Whitaker scarcely got the sort of service he wanted, and French gave fleeting glimpses of what he can do.

Unfortunately, the winger was often caught in possession, and several times put the ball behind from good positions.

To have three goals debited against them was a poor reward for the defence, which worked hard and willingly. Even though he was bothered at times by Kerr, Woods was staunch at centre-half and Reid again was notable for the amount of covering he did.

The result could have been very different had the Town had the breaks, but they did not come their way this afternoon.

Attendance: 4,867.