

Town in goalless draw shocker

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 0, LINCOLN CITY 0

BY and large, the Fourth Division has not been the dire disaster so many people forecast when the Town dropped into it at the end of last season.

In fact, there have been many exciting, intensely interesting games at Kenilworth Road which have been the means of gates rising to respectable proportions once again.

More's the pity then, that as an anti-climax, this shoddy affair should be put on before 9,621 fans who certainly deserved better reward for their money.

For the Town, the excuse must be that their attack has been sadly denuded by injuries and it was a shock to discover that O'Rourke had joined the inactive list after there had been such confidence about his recovery from foot trouble.

Whether he would have been able to salvage the point that was tossed away on this occasion, can merely be a matter for conjecture.

However, such was the paucity of the mid-field build-up and so few attacks of any merit were created, that even his ingenuity might have been strained.

One thing this match proved conclusively is that Read and Edwards are no sort of an inside-forward pairing. Neither has the craft to act as the foil for the other, something that was conceded at half-time when Riddick and Edwards changed places.

TOWN SHOW DESPERATION

By then though there was so much desperation about the Town's play that little order or cohesion could be brought to bear.

More took on himself the role of an auxiliary forward, which he could without danger, because Lincoln were seldom threatening as an attacking force.

In the event, he missed the best chance of the match early in the second half when McKechnie made a foray down the left to make a centre from which the left-half hooked the ball over the bar from six yards out.

Throughout, the Town had more of the play, but their shooting was sketchy, to say the least, and such first-half chances as happened, rather than were created, and there were not many, were wasted.

LINCOLN DEFEND

Increasingly as the second half went on, Lincoln were content to concentrate on defence and when the Town forced several corners in the closing stages, the whole City team was congregated in the penalty area.

With about 10 minutes left, McKechnie made the Town's best scoring effort with a low shot that smacked against a post with Wakeham, for once, beaten.

No other chance presented itself and, two minutes from the end, Whittaker limped off with a punctured artery in his foot and was replaced by Rivers.

Few marks can be awarded to the Town forwards. French worked as if he might earn some in the first half, but his finishing seemed to have been caught up with the general epidemic of mediocrity.

Not much of the ball seems to be going the way of Whittaker these days which goes to emphasise the Town's present weakness at inside-forward.

So far as the defence was concerned, they could scarcely have asked for a more comfortable task because the Lincoln attack showed little sign of being ambitious.

Woods was never in the slightest difficulty, Reid worked as if he relished his move to right-half and Moore was adequate, though casual at times.

Certainly, Thomson justified his recall and I much prefer Riddick at full-back, though whether the present situation will demand his presence in attack is another matter.

After his absence from the League scene, Tinsley came back for a very uncomplicated afternoon indeed, but his anticipation was always sharp.

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley; Riddick, Thomson; Reid, Woods, Moore; French, Read, McKechnie, Edwards, Whittaker (Rivers).

LINCOLN CITY: Wakeham; Jones, Smith; Milner, Heward, Grummit; Barton, Holmes, Bonson, Fencott, Godbold. Substitute: Hudson.

Referee: D. A. Corbett, Wolverhampton.