

DETERMINATION IS THE AWAY NEED

Points will not come until it is discovered

By CHILTERN

SOUTHPORT 4, LUTON TOWN 1

TRYING to reconcile the tremendous difference between the sort of form the Town show at home and that which they reveal on opponents' grounds, presents not only a problem that seems near insoluble, but one which becomes a bore through its repetition at weekly or fortnightly intervals, depending on how the fixtures fall.

That away points in any sphere of the Football League are not easy to come by, and that it is perhaps a little more difficult to do so in the Fourth Division by reason of the fact that pure skill tends to count less, I am only too sharply aware.

But in my view, that does not explain why a Luton team that is capable of so much and which scores readily enough at home should be such a pale shadow when they leave their own compact Kenilworth-road ground.

In all probability, Manager George Martin put his finger firmly on the trouble when he announced early in the week that he meant to have greater effort in away matches.

To exist on their breadline gates, most Division IV clubs must have reasonable records at home. They are prepared to fight to achieve that aim, and I feel that the manager was not far from the truth when he said that this must be matched by increased determination.

Without a fair percentage of away points, no team ever won promotion, no matter how good their home record, and that is a fact over which the Town, possessors of the worst away record among the whole 92 teams, should ponder.

THAT LITTLE EXTRA NEEDED

That the ability is there we have seen in home matches, but away from home that little extra is needed, and the Town have not been able to find it as yet.

Even so, there could have been a much better result from their point of view from this match at Haig Avenue had they really found some punch in attack during the first half, when they had at least an equal share of the play.

This, despite the fact that they went behind in only the third minute when **ALTY** stole a march on the Town defence by racing into the inside-right position to collect a pass by Spence.

After that, the Town moved the ball about quite entertainingly in midfield at times, but there was not sufficient sense of urgency, and the close-range chances such as those created by Southport did not accrue.

Indeed, most of the Town's shooting was from outside the penalty box, and there was not a lot of danger from it. Yet no-one could have com-

plained reasonably had they been level at half-time, despite the somewhat upsetting effect of having two players, Riddick and Read, booked for showing dissent at decisions, as was Thomson later following a foul.

REMARKABLE GOAL RUSH

Certainly no-one was prepared for the remarkable happenings that began in the seventh minute after half-time, when **RUSSELL** put Southport two up, a lead that was increased two minutes later by **SPENCE**.

And that was only half the scoring spree, because after 56 minutes **RIOCH** achieved the distinction of becoming the first Town forward to score an away goal this season when he cleverly steered in a good pass from Jardine.

Before the loyal Luton contingent had time to really savour this, Read was picking the ball out of his net again, well beaten once more by **RUSSELL**.

Then, as suddenly as it had begun, the goal riot ended, though there could have been two or three more for Southport but for some brilliant saves by Read, who really achieved star rating in this match, with his fearlessness and fine anticipation.

DETERMINED FULL-BACKS

Nor would I cavil at the performances of either Thomson or Jardine, who, although overworked at times stuck to their tasks with a determination that should have been a source of inspiration.

Through his failure to cut out the dangerous Russell, Slough failed in the key role that had been allotted to him and although Moore was a little more effective, he was certainly not at his best.

Result was that Riddick found himself near overwhelmed at times and one wonders anew whether he can be the permanent solution here, apart from the fact that

his footballing talents could be used to advantage elsewhere.

FORWARD WEAKNESSES DID NOT HELP

Maybe had the forward line been better balanced and been able to retain possession more consistently the defence would not have got itself into the tangle that involved them early in the second half.

However, of the five, only Rioch and French did anything to enhance their reputations and even a second-half switch by King and Whittaker failed to improve matters. Molyneux took a grip on Thear from the start and it was never relaxed in the slightest degree.

SOUTHPORT: Reeves; Parker, Cairns; Peat, Molyneux, Alty; McKinlay, Spence, Fryatt (Price), Russell, Smith.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Thomson, Jardine; Slough, Riddick, Moore; French, Whittaker, Thear, Rioch, King. Substitute: Pleat.

Referee: D. W. G. Brady, Rotherham. Attendance 4,385.