

Chester's blanket defence

67/68

By Chiltern
LUTON TOWN 0,
CHESTER 0

IF THE game the previous day had its drab and scrappy passages, there was at least the consolation that the Town got the ball into the net twice, something they seldom promised to do in this scrambling affair.

Various reasons have been advanced for the Town's below par display, including the light ball, the dry, dusty ground and the swirling wind.

Even more effective, though in curbing their scoring power was Chester's almost complete reliance on packing their penalty area and so well did they cover that the Town obtained very few clear-cut openings.

It was negative stuff, but Chester made it apparent from the start that they intended to hold on to a draw if it were humanly possible.

MEANT TO

HOLD ON

Never did they show much ambition in attack, but the Town, although their territorial advantage was considerable, never seemed likely to break loose and score freely.

For one thing, their build-up in midfield was not good enough, and the inference from their display as a whole, was that the strain is beginning to tell on them.

Tactically, too, they fell down because they persisted in lobbing the ball into the goalmouth where it was dealt with ably by the Chester defenders who had a considerable advantage in height.

With goals looking far away it was decided to replace Allen with Green after an hour, but this had little noticeable effect as the Town became more and more frustrated.

CLUTCHING

AT STRAWS

A couple of appeals for penalties for hands were turned down and this was really like a drowning man clutching at a straw.

Strong, fast wing play might have been the means of turning the Chester defence, but French was too closely watched to be effective and Whittaker was well below his best.

Nor were the midfield links, Slough and Rioch, at their best and the spearheads of Allen, then Green, and Buxton, were blunted.

Such raids as Chester made were broken up easily enough by the strong defence, though there was an anxious moment when Loyden banged the ball in, but the referee disallowed the goal.