

TOWN AND POSH GIVE THE FANS A GOAL FEAST

LUTON TOWN 5

PETERBOROUGH UNITED 2

69/70
(F.C.)

FAR too often in the grim business that is League football today, the fact that the scoring of goals is what the game is all about, is pushed into the background.

So, it was all the more refreshing in this League Cup replay at Kenilworth Road, on Tuesday, to see two teams throwing aside the principle of blanket defence and concentrating on attack.

That the crowd of 13,105 appreciated it was obvious from the fact that, at the

Report by ERIC PUGH

end, they applauded the teams off the field, and Peterborough, a cut above the Fourth Division on this showing, deserved their share of the ovation.

Indeed, at the start, it seemed as if the Town might have some difficulty in preserving their unbeaten home record, which has now spanned 30 matches.

Shock goal

This line of thought emanated from a happening in the eighth minute when Hall, from the left wing, made a quick cross to ILEY.

Showing the depth of his vast experience, Iley controlled the ball, and cracked in a rising drive from the edge of the penalty area that Read could scarcely have seen, let alone touched.

It was what manager Alec Stock described afterwards as a "flat start," for the Town, and pretty much out of character.

For the best part of 20 minutes, the Town were unsettled, with Branston being peculiarly out of touch with his timing of the high ball.

Ray of light

First ray of light came in the 23rd minute when MacDONALD hit the ball into the roof of the net after Allen had headed on a long throw-in by Keen.

Then, strangely, BRANSTON'S timing returned, though in attack, because immediately afterwards a header from him missed by inches.

However, on the half-hour, he had consolation because he glanced past Drewery a corner taken by Lewis on the left.

Further pressure brought

a penalty four minutes from half-time, when LEWIS was fouled by Wile, and the outside-right was again fortunate with his effort from the spot.

As against Barrow, the goalkeeper pushed out his shot, but he was able to follow up to score.

Escape from Town

Almost on half-time, there was an escape at the other end when Read stuck out a leg to save from Moss, who had been left with a splendid chance.

For the second half, Peterborough replaced Potts with Price, scorer in the first game, and were back in it after 12 minutes when a shot from ROBSON, which Read had covered, was deflected by hitting Bannister.

That was Peterborough's chance, but they were not allowed to capitalise, because the Town hurried to the attack, and Hampton handled on the goal-line to prevent Sheffield scoring.

This time, LEWIS took the penalty in altogether more forthright fashion, and when ALLEN made it five after 70 minutes, there was no doubt who were going to be hosts to Millwall in the next round.

Reminiscent

In fact, the lively MacDonald came close to adding a couple more, one after a run that was reminiscent of Rioch at his best.

MacDonald looks as if he will get lots of goals, but the forward who impressed me most was French, who was always a source of danger.

The midfield was adequately taken care of by Keen, now playing in his best QPR form, and Allen, while, in the back four, Ryan continues to impress sufficiently to make one wonder how, along with MacDonald, Fulham felt that they could afford to let him go.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Ryan, Bannister; Keen, Branston, Slough; Lewis, MacDonald, Sheffield, Allen, French. Substitute: Stevenson.

PETERBOROUGH UNITED: Drewery; Potts (Price), Noble; Hampton, Wile, Wright; Moss, Holliday, Hall, Iley, Robson.

Referee: M. A. Fussey, Retford.