

THE TOWN ARE BECOMING CLINICAL EXECUTIONERS

69/70
WALSALL 1, LUTON TOWN 3
WITH a cool efficiency that is almost clinical, the Town maintained their almost unbelievable run of consistency away from home with a comprehensive win over hard-working Walsall, on Tuesday.

In a dramatic start, both goals fell before the game had been on two minutes, with TEES putting the Town ahead in the first move of the match after 30 seconds.

Parkes was penalised for carrying the ball too far, and, from Collins's free-kick. The centre-forward made no mistake from close range.

However, the Town barely had time to digest the strength of their position, because a foul awarded against Davie brought Walsall a free-kick, the centre-forward made and TAYLOR was on the spot to ram home the equaliser.

After that sparkling start,

defences began to take a firmer grip, with the Town adequately containing the speed and thrust of the Walsall attack, which lacked accuracy in front of goal.

Half-chances developed and were missed, but the Town never seemed to be in real danger of going into arrears.

They had their slice of bad luck

Report by ERIC PUGH

just before the interval when Dougan twisted his knee, went off momentarily, but was replaced in the second half by Jardine, having his first sample of senior football this season.

Taking over in the somewhat unfamiliar position, for him, at right-back, he came through extremely well.

Breaking out quickly from

defence, the Town always looked the better balanced side, and justice was done in the 59th minute when TEES, again showing his power in the air met a long free-kick from Keen, to head neatly past Parkes.

Nine minutes later, the Town's victory became assured when COLLINS, having his best game for

changed the whole situation, but this was the only time when the Town seemed in dire danger of losing their grip.

Once again, it was a thoroughly workmanlike performance, stemming from the soundness of the back four, the grip taken in midfield by Keen and Allen, and the effectiveness of the striking power.

Yet, on this occasion, MacDonald was well held and, in fact, is receiving increasingly close marking.

Tees is now blossoming out as a match-winner, and the way in which he laid off the ball and took up position was particularly impressive.

WALSALL: Parkes; Gregg, Harrison; Atthey, Jones, Trevis; Morris (Stephens), Crowe, Woodward, Train, Taylor.

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Dougan (Jardine), Bannister; Keen, Nicholl, Slough; Collins, MacDonald, Tees, Allen, French.

Referee: M. Kerkhof, Bicester.
Attendance: 7,557.

some time, turned quickly on to the ball as Tees flicked it to him from a free-kick by Bannister, and left Parkes helpless again.

In an effort to save the game, Walsall substituted Stephens for Morris, but the only cause for concern for the Town came when a shot by Train was deflected on to the bar by Davie.

A goal at that stage could have