

Town go for goals and crush Walsall

LUTON TOWN 3, WALSALL 0

CONFIDENTLY and competently, the Town edged a step nearer to their promotion ambition when they comfortably overcame Walsall before a crowd of 17,193 at Kenilworth Road on Saturday night.

Probably, their victory would have been even more conclusive but for the fact

By ERIC PUGH

that some caution was necessary when they lost Starling through injury after 58 minutes.

This led to the introduction of the substitute, Keith Allen, in goal, which I understand is a completely new experience for him. Yet, the confident way in which he handled the ball did not suggest that, and the crowd applauded gleefully every time he made a successful catch.

At the same time, the defence did not take anything for granted because they afforded him the maximum cover, with the result that only in the dying minutes when Evans drove the ball against a post, was he in any sort of trouble.

Winning lead

Fortunately, when the mishap to Starling occurred—he damaged the ligaments of his knee when getting up after saving a low shot—the Town already held a winning lead of 3-0.

All the goals came in the first half when the Town established their superiority without any argument.

BUSBY set the pattern with a well-taken goal after eight minutes, and COLLINS followed with another 17 minutes later. Most of the damage to Walsall's defence came down the Town's left where,



Viv Busby, left, set Town's attacking pattern against Walsall with a splendid goal after only eight minutes, and John Collins, right, followed with one 17 minutes later.

even if French did not have a spectacular game, he laid on some telling passes.

Appropriately, because he had been the main-spring of the front line, MacDONALD secured the third goal two minutes before half-time with a great header, and that was a situation from which Walsall could never expect any reprieve.

Never in danger

Even the mishap to Starling, and the fact that Bannister was also hurt, did not upset the Town's hold on this match, and they were never in any real danger.

There was a refreshing tendency to go into all-out attack in the first half, during which Busby emphasised further his considerable promise, and there is no doubt that his inclusion has been helpful to MacDonald, who is not carrying so much of the weight as he was.

Marshalled expertly by Branston, the defence did a thoroughly effective job, with Slough and Keen the king-pins in midfield.

LUTON TOWN: Starling (Allen); Ryan, Bannister; Slough, Branston, Moore; Collins, Busby, MacDonald, Keen, French.

WALSALL: Parkes; Gregg, Evans; Harrison, Jones, Atthey; Taylor, Seal (Baker), Woodward, Trevis, Morris.

Referee: C. H. Nicholls, Plymouth.