

Town find sure way with 'Giant-killer'

70/71 (sic)

LUTON TOWN 3, WORKINGTON 0

IN a situation like this, when one of the League's minnows is seeking to cause a sensation, there is always the uncomfortable feeling for the side of higher status, that they are on a hiding to nothing.

The best way to solve the problem was demonstrated by the Town at Kenilworth Road, on Tuesday, when they showed that the first principle is to maintain soundness in defence.

Having achieved that, the utmost use must be made of the chances that occur, preferably early in the game, and the formula worked pretty well for the Town.

They had just one shock, when a lob by Spratt caught Read too far out, but the goalkeeper made a gymnastic leap to push the ball over the bar.

That, probably, was the save of the night but, at the same time, it extricated Read from a bit of trouble largely of his own making.

Vital first goal

The vital first goal came in the ninth minute, when John Ryan and Court took part in a brilliant passing movement, which left GIVENS with a clear run into goal. Although Burridge got a hand to his hard drive, the pace of the ball was such that it carried well over the line.

Without suggesting that they had sufficient penetration in their front line to become the first team to score at Kenilworth Road this season, Workington played some neat football in midfield where, however, the Town again mostly held command.

Nearly another

Always, it was obvious that another goal would finish it in the Town's favour, and it nearly came in the 31st minute, when Slough went through powerfully. His shot was deflected by Wilson on to the bar, and it came back into play.

Just before half-time, a player on either side was booked, although there had not been a deal of roughness and, certainly, no hint of viciousness.

Givens was an unlucky sufferer, because the incident in which he was concerned had nothing to do with him at the outset.

Tees and Spencer were having a tussle in midfield, and Givens seemed to go into it in the role of peace-maker. Possibly, that would have been all right but, finally, he kicked the ball away after play had stopped, and that is a heinous offence in the books of some referees.

There's far worse

Things were evened up when Goodfellow's name was taken for a foul on Tees and, again, the feeling I had was that one sees far worse offences go unchecked every week.

Firstly because Tees had

received something of a buffeting and, secondly, through the desire to give Jimmy Ryan a longer period than a few minutes at the end of a match, this change was made for the second half.

For me, it had the merit of releasing MacDonald for duties down the middle instead of semi-wasting his talent on the wing and, immediately the move paid off.

With five minutes gone, Ryan's fine footwork found a gap and he laid on a simple chance for MacDonald who had simply to tap the ball in.

Virtual end

Virtually, that was the end of the contest, and it scarcely needed a brilliantly headed goal by GIVENS 14 minutes from the end to emphasise the Town's superiority. It came from a fine centre by John Ryan at the end of a purposeful overlap.

Once again, there could be not the slightest com-

plaint about the back four, in which Nicholl and Moore were again outstanding, though Ryan and Slough were little below their standard.

Without suggesting that he is in contention for a regular place yet awhile, Guild has done well as the stand-in for Hoy, and the two outings will have been of immense benefit to him. Court's class stood out at times and Keen was always prominent.

Once again, there was some hard running up front, and now that Givens has broken the ice so far as goals are concerned, some of the burden will be taken off MacDonald.

LUTON TOWN: Read; Ryan (John), Slough; Guild, Nicholl, Moore; MacDonald, Court, Tees. (Ryan, Jimmy), Keen, Givens.
WORKINGTON: Burridge; Wilson, Butler; Geidmintis, Spencer, Wood; Tyrer, Spratt, Massie (Wookey), Goodfellow, Martin.
Referee: M. E. Washer, Bristol.
Attendance: 11,072.