

WEAK TOWN GIVEN

THE TOWN'S DISMAL defeat at Burnley on Tuesday night put the lid on an unhappy Easter, and the playing record for the last five matches now speaks for itself: not a single goal scored, and only one point picked up.

And with no punch up front, the defence is being bowled over by sheer weight of pressure. In the last seven and a half hours of soccer, the Town have leaked 10 goals without getting one in reply.

At Burnley, everything was against them. Already promoted, the Lancashire side were looking for goals and points to turn them into Division II's champions.

Town wingers John Aston and Graham French were both missing because of injuries, and although a hard rearguard action kept the score-sheet blank until the interval, Burnley were the only side in it.

They were faster on and off the ball, bursting with enthusiasm, and working well for each other.



● Graham French: his talents as a ball player were badly missed as Burnley steam-rolled the Town forwards out of the game.

A ^{72/73} HIDING

They stormed on to perpetual attack, and the Town defence had no breathing time at all.

Keith Barber kept the Town in the game with some good saves, and in the last 15 minutes of the first half Burnley were

beginning to look rattled at their failure to get the goals their superiority clearly deserved.

But every time the Town defence cleared their lines, Burnley came straight back, because the Town attack, with Derek Hales and Rod Fern struggling ineffec-

tively, could not pose any problems for Burnley.

The Town lost out in midfield, and it was only a matter of time before goals came.

Burnley hit three in nine minutes, and the one that started it was a peach. Frank Casper went down the Burnley left and pulled the ball back to Leighton James.

He was on the edge of the penalty area, with two Town defenders covering him. But he threw them both the wrong way with a body swerve, found a yard of space and then hit a superb drive into the far corner of the net.

It was a goal to remember—and James is a player Luton will remember as well. He hit both Burnley's goals in the 2-2 draw at Kenilworth Road in September.

His goal on Tuesday

steadied the Burnley side, and they really turned it on. Keith Barber, Don Shanks, Ken Goodeve, John Faulkner and Bobby Thomson went bravely through a miserable ordeal as Burnley piled on the pressure.

The Town could have no complaints about the final result, with Jim Thomson and Doug Collins adding further Burnley goals.

Collins's goal was compensation for his booking early on when he kicked Peter Anderson. It was a dirty foul, and so was one by Ken Goodeve on James which brought him a booking when it might have been a sending-off.

But life can be very frustrating these days for Town defenders. There must be easier ways of earning a living. I begin to think that about my job sometimes.

MATCH DETAILS

BURNLEY 3, LUTON TOWN 0

Half-time: 0-0

TOWN: Barber; Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Goodeve, Jim Ryan, John Ryan, Fern, Hindson, Hales. Sub: Slough, not used.

BURNLEY: Stevenson; Ingham, Newton, Dobson, Waldron, Thomson, Nulty, Casper (Hankin 80 minutes), Fletcher, Collins, James.

GOALS: James, 62 mins, Thomson, 67 mins and Collins 71 mins, all for Burnley.

REFEREE: J. D. Williams, Wrexham.

ATTENDANCE: 17,689.

ENTERTAINMENT: Good unless you supported Luton.