

# SPORT AND MOTORING

## Town Match Verdict ★★★★★

# STRIKING LESSON LEAVES EVERTON STUNNED

**Match Details**  
EVERTON 0 LUTON TOWN 1  
Half-time: 0-0

TOWN: Sealey; Stephens, Elliott, Donaghy, Turner; Hill, Horton, Bunn; Stein, Walsh, Moss. Sub: Thomas, not needed.  
EVERTON: Southall; Harper, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Bailey; Reid, Steven, King; Heath, Sharp, Sheedy. Sub: Richardson, not used.

THE GOAL: Paul Walsh, 76 minutes, brilliant solo effort after beating Mark Higgins for pace and control.  
OTHER STRIKES: Town three saved, nine wide; Everton eight saved and 12 off target. Corners: 8-2 to Everton.  
ATTENDANCE: 14,325, Everton's lowest of the season, but on a miserable wet afternoon—and Everton hadn't won a home league game since the first day of the season.

ENTERTAINMENT: The home fans booed and jeered at the end because Everton had failed to show much sparkle and the Town pinched the points through one flash of individual enterprise.

REFEREE: John Hough, Macclesfield—might have let the game flow a little more, but certainly he was no homer and booked Everton's Adrian Heath and Mark Higgins, both for dissent.

● MATCH-WINNER: Paul Walsh delivering his shot after eluding Mark Higgins's attempted tackle.



● ON ITS WAY: Goalkeeper Neville Southall makes a despairing attempt to save, but . . .

AT HALF-TIME at Goodison Park Luton Town manager David Pleat was half-satisfied with his team's performance.

They had defended well to keep a clean sheet against the side that put ten goals past them last season.

But the attacking flair, once the hallmark of Luton Town, had been almost non-existent. One good opening had been wasted by Paul Walsh, while Everton had piled men forward for long periods.

The plea with the half-time tea was for the Town to impose themselves more on the game as an attacking force, and the manager was given the perfect response as Walsh atoned for his first-half miss with a cracking winning goal 14 minutes from time.

The little striker showed Everton that all the hustle and bustle in the world can come to nothing if there is no invention or enterprise added to it.

As a spectacle, on a miserable grey Merseyside afternoon, the game will have done nothing to boost Everton's falling attendances.

The home fans didn't enjoy the sight of Everton's stereotyped attacking repulsed by a superb Town defence.

Everton manager Howard Kendall complained that the Town stole the points, with less than ten minutes' domination out of the 90.

But as his side has now scored only six goals in nine league outings—and only two in five home games—he sounded less than convincing when he complained about football justice.

Everton did much more attacking for the

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first 70 minutes, but the regular tactics of feeding hopeful high crosses to Graeme Sharp suited Paul Elliott nicely.

Like the rest of the defence he was outstanding in face of a lot of pressure that was not allowed to get close to goal.

When half-chances were created Les Sealey made good saves against Andy King and Sharp. Everton's midfield tackling was second best to Brian Horton and Frank Bunn, and Ricky Hill produced a lovely performance in Town counter-attacks.

His hard running with the ball posed problems which should have produced more direct threat to Neville Southall, although at half-time the Town should have been ahead.

A lovely pass from Bunn sent David Moss down the right wing. He beat John Bailey and dropped a cross on to the six-yard line. Walsh looked surprised at being left unattended as the ball fell to him, and shot woefully high when he should have scored.

In the second half the Town added a little more determination to their counter-attacking. Brian Stein and Walsh started to look much more menacing, with willingness to take on men posing much more danger than Everton's inconsistent passing.

Significantly, the more promising attacking was not at the expense of concentration among the defence, with Elliott and Donaghy making

perfect tackles to stop Heath and Sharp when they nearly found gaps close to goal.

After an hour, the small contingent of Luton fans began to sense that one point need not be the minimum objective.

Everton ran out of attacking ideas, their midfield produced nothing in the way of variety of service to the front runners and the Town confidence blossomed.

Walsh sprinted clear on to a through-pass by Wayne Turner and was denied by Southall's brave save at the striker's feet, and then Stein produced the best run of the match.

He set off on a one-man assault from near the half-way line. Defenders retreated at first, and were then left stranded as Stein went past four men. Angled on the right, he saw Southall advancing, and placed his shot deliberately towards the far corner. The goalkeeper was beaten low to his right, but the ball was inches wide of the target.

Six minutes later Walsh went on a similar run following a short free-kick by Horton. He was, if anything, even more direct than Stein, going hard through the middle, shaking off an attempted tackle by Mark Higgins, then beating Southall with a low drive from inside the penalty area.

It was an object lesson to an Everton side that threatened much and achieved nearly nothing, and shortly before the final whistle Stein almost got a second Town goal. Hill put him through but Southall saved with his legs with a desperate smother-lunge.

"Impose yourselves on the game more," had been Mr Pleat's half-time demand. He couldn't have been given a better answer, and every man in the team played his part.



● ONE BEATS TWO: Brian Stein leaves two defenders grounded on a marvellous second-half run which nearly brought the Town a 70th-minute goal.

## Top is a lot nearer than bottom

THE second away win of the season put the Town up to seventh place in the First Division, three points behind top place and ten clear of the bottom three.

The weekend's crunch games were at West Ham and Old Trafford. Champions Liverpool won 3-1 at Upton Park to knock the Hammers off the top spot which they had held since the first league tables of the season were compiled.

Manchester United took advantage of the favour Liverpool did them. They had 42,221 customers to see them beat West Brom 3-0 and snatch first place, a point ahead of West Ham.

Liverpool went up to fifth thanks to Michael Robinson's hat-trick, his first league goals since he got one for Brighton last March . . . against Liverpool.

Queens Park Rangers, Second Division champions last

season, moved into third place with their fourth consecutive league victory, 2-0 against Ipswich at Portman Road.

Southampton, who come to Kenilworth Road on Saturday, lost second place because their game at Leicester was washed out after 23 minutes, and they are doomed to drop even further if the Town can beat them.

Nottingham Forest moved level with the Town on points, but behind them on goal difference, with a local derby win against Notts County on Sunday.

County scored their first goal for a month, but it was their seventh consecutive defeat, and they also had Justin Fashanu and David Hunt sent off as Forest won 3-1.

Leicester are looking set to slide back down to the Sec-

ond Division at the first attempt, with only one point to show from eight completed matches so far.

Wolves look like making the same rapid return journey. They have just two points after their seventh defeat of the season, 2-3 at home to Spurs.

Notts County have six points, all collected in the first two games of the season, and Watford and Stoke have eight.

Today's top positions in the First Division:

| Man. Old     | P  | W | D | L  | F  | A  | P  |
|--------------|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| Man. Old     | 46 | 1 | 2 | 17 | 11 | 19 |    |
| West Ham     | 46 | 8 | 3 | 20 | 10 | 18 |    |
| QPR          | 46 | 2 | 2 | 27 | 6  | 17 |    |
| Southampton  | 46 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 6  | 17 |    |
| Liverpool    | 46 | 5 | 2 | 21 | 6  | 17 |    |
| Ipswich      | 46 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 11 | 16 |    |
| LUTON TOWN   | 46 | 5 | 1 | 3  | 16 | 8  | 16 |
| Nottm Forest | 46 | 5 | 1 | 3  | 15 | 12 | 16 |
| Aston Villa  | 46 | 5 | 1 | 3  | 12 | 10 | 16 |
| Spurs        | 46 | 4 | 2 | 3  | 15 | 14 | 14 |
| Coventry     | 46 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 14 |    |
| West Brom    | 46 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 14 | 14 |    |
| Birmingham   | 46 | 2 | 3 | 9  | 10 | 14 |    |

... IT'S THERE: Higgins groans aloud as the Town's winner goes in.