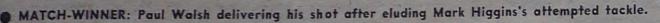
BT AND MOTOBING.







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

STRIKING LESSON LEAVES

EVERTON O LUTON TOWN 1 Half-time: 0-0

TOWN: Sealey; Stephens, Elliott, Donaghy, Turner; Hill, Horton, Bunn; Stein, Walsh, Moss. Sub: Thomas, not

EVERTON: Southall; Harper, Ratcliffe, Higgins, Bailey; Reid, Steven, King; Heath, Sharp, Sheedy, Sub: Richard-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

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, side afternoon, the game will have done nothing

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

> Everton's stereotyped attacking repulsed by a

clean sheet against the side that put ten

of Luton Town, had been almost non-existent.

One good opening had been wasted by Paul

Walsh, while Everton had piled men forward

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

the hustle and bustle in the world can come to

nothing if there is no invention or enterprise

to boost Everton's falling attendances.

The little striker showed Everton that all

As a spectacle, on a miserable grey Mersey-

The home fans didn't enjoy the sight of

But the attacking flair, once the hallmark

The plea with the half-time tea was for the

goals past them last season.

for long periods.

added to it.

14 minutes from time.

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

Everton did much more attacking for the

Town manager David Pleat was half-REPORT BY BRIAN SWAIN satisfied with his team's performance. PICTURES: MARK RICHARDS They had defended well to keep a

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 by Wayne Turnet and was denied by Southail's not allowed to get close to goal.

When half-chances were created Les Sealev made good saves against Andy King and Sharp. Everton's midfield tackling was second best o 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 him through but Southall saved with his legs posing much more danger than Everton's incon-

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

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 onfidence blossomed.

Walsh sprinted clear on to a through-pass 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

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 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.

the season put the Town than bottom

the First Division, three points behind top place season, moved into third ond Division at the first atand ten clear of the bot- place with their fourth con- tempt, with only one point tom three.

The weekend's crunch Road. 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 level with the Town on Today's top positions in 42,221 customers to see them points, but behind them on the First Division: beat West Brom 3-0 and goal difference, with a local snatch first place, a point derby win against Notts Man Did

ahead of West Ham. Liverpool went up to fifth County scored their first thanks to Michael Robinson's goal for a month, but it was Liverprot hat - trick, his first league their seventh consecutive degoals since he got one for feat, and they also had Justin Neum Ferest Brighton last March . . . Fashanu and David Hunt against Liverpool.

ond Division champions last slide back down to the Sec- Birmingham

secutive league victory, 2-0 to show from eight completed against Ipswich at Portman matches so far.

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 have eight. County on Sunday.

sent off as Forest won 3-1.

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

points, all collected in the first two games of the season, and Watford and Stoke

Queens Park Rangers, Sec- Leicester are looking set to

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