

Town match verdict ★★★★★

NEWSPAPER, May 8, 1991 — 49

'Players gave all they could'

THERE were no complaints from Howard Kendall that was true, but added that on the run of play Town set out the way the stall at Goodison Park.

The Everton manager said: "It was very frustrating for us — it was difficult to play."

But that is no criticism of Jimmy Ryan. He has to do

Manager's viewpoint

what he can with the squad he has, and try to get a result and get out of trouble.

"We thought Farrell would play up front for Luton, but as it turned out no-one did."

Jim Ryan said he didn't like losing 1-0, but as that made the Town's goal difference figure the same as Sunderland's he had decided that it was not worth risking conceding further goals.

"I was pretty happy about our defence," he said.

"We gave Everton a lot of possession, but only in areas of the field where they could not do a lot of damage to us."

"But we didn't get our counter-attacking game going the way we wanted it."

Even so he was not displeased with the sort of decision I expect us to get these days: luck hasn't been going for us in recent games.

"But I cannot be disheartened with the effort and application, and did everything we asked of them tactically."

Southall parried his shot.

Mr. Kendall admitted that was true, but added that on the run of play Everton deserved to win.

Tony Cottee could have had a hat-trick, with two efforts hitting the woodwork.

Mr. Ryan said he thought the Town had worked hard enough to deserve something from the game.

"We had only one short bad period, after they scored, when we lost our marking for a spell."

He added that the Town had lost to a scruffy goal, and there was some doubt about offside when the ball bounced off McCall to Cottee.

Effort
He added with a wry smile: "That's not the sort of decision I expect us to get these days: luck hasn't been going for us in recent games."

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Only save
The best Town attack had come just before that, with Rees making a sharp interception to start a move carried on by David Preece. It ended with Black shooting too close to Neville.

Southall from the left hand edge of the penalty area.

Southall's save he had to make.

Alec Chamberlain — the Town's man of the match again, and named as player of the season on Sunday — see back page.

Lifted

Everton, inevitably, were lifted by the goal, and Alec Chamberlain then turned in another superb performance to stop the defeat being heavier.

And the defensive strategy fell victim to the sort of unlucky break that can happen to the best of teams four minutes into the second half.

Stuart McCall blocked an attempted clearance by Dreyer

and the ball that might have bounced anywhere dropped behind Dreyer, the last line of defence, and into the path of Tony Cottee.

He expertly accepted a simple chance for his 22nd goal of the season, and we knew that he then had to rely on Arsenal at Roker Park to help us out of deeper trouble.

Julian James was the sub for Rodgers and took Cottee, with McDonough shadowing Newell, and at half-time the home fans roared as they saw the Goodison season ending in a sea of mediocrity, as they say it. The Town had stifled the game so well that despite a lot of possession and promise Everton had never threatened to embarrass their former reserve goalkeeper.

The problem for Town fans was that you could not guess where a goal might come from at the other end.

They figured that they won the ball in an important area it could carry the play to send Everton into depths of frustration and despair.

Frustration
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Pictures: Josh Levy

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● RARE SIGHT: Neville Southall gets set on one of the few occasions his goal was threatened.

UNLUCKY BOUNCE BRAVE BID TO SAVE

A LUTON TOWN team without strikers did its very best to overcome that massive handicap at Goodison on Saturday.

The philosophy forced on manager Jim Ryan and his men was one of if you can't score goals when the relegation trapdoor is gaping, at least make every effort not to concede any.

So they used a sweeper, for the second time this season, and even when the pack had to be reshuffled because of an injury to Graham Rodgers it so nearly brought back a precious point.

It was a cruel unlucky break that beat the system. But what was I

Mr. Ryan has tried the sweeper system in the single-goal defeat at Selhurst Park in December. It did not look too effective then.

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Sports Editor Brian Swain reports

Not pretty
It did not make for a pretty game, but it was a day when I would have settled for the ugliest point in the world if it improved our hopes of watching more First Division football next season.

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● LEADING BY EXAMPLE: Skipper John Dreyer rises high in an attempt to boost a Town attack.

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● AWARD WINNER: Mark Pembroke in action 24 hours before he and Ceri Hughes were named as joint holders of the Luton Town young player of the year trophy.

● SHOOTING STAR: Kingsley Black hits the Town's only shot.



● DEBUT BOY: Paul Telfer, the latest teenager to make his league bow for the Town, as sub for the last 22 minutes.

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Southall from the left hand edge of the penalty area.

Southall's save he had to make.

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The season so far

BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIV 1

August		
25 C. Palace (h) 1-1 (Dewell)	5,583	
28 Arsenal (h) 1-2 (Elstrup)	32,723	
September		
1 Southampton (a) 2-1 (Elstrup 2)	14,878	
4 Man United (h) 0-1 (Rees)	15,576	
8 Leeds Utd (h) 1-0 (Black)	10,185	
15 QPR (a) 1-4 (Hughes)	10,196	
15 Norwich (h) 1-1 (Elstrup)	13,329	
22 Coventry (h) 1-0 (Black)	12,794	
28 Norwich (h) 3-1 (Elstrup)	20,025	
28 Sunderland (a) 0-2	10,047	
27 Everton (h) 1-1 (Elstrup)	10,047	
November		
3 Derby (a) 1-2 (Black)	15,008	
10 Liverpool (a) 0-4	15,207	
17 Man City (h) 2-2 (Dewell, Dreyer pen)	5,564	
24 A. Villa (h) 2-0 (Black, Elstrup)	10,071	
December		
1 R. Forest (h) 2-2 (Elstrup 2)	16,490	
8 Arsenal (h) 1-2 (Dreyer pen)	12,506	
16 C. Palace (a) 0-1	15,156	
22 Spurs (a) 1-2 (Dewell)	17,807	
26 Sheff Utd (h) 1-4 (Rees)	10,004	
29 Chelsea (h) 2-0 (Dewell, Black)	11,050	
1991		
1 Wimbledon (a) 0-2	4,521	
12 Southampton (h) 3-4 (Elstrup, James, Dreyer pen)	9,921	
19 Leeds (h) 1-1 (Black)	27,010	
February		
2 QPR (h) 1-2 (Black)	6,479	
12 Liverpool (h) 3-1 (Black, Dewell 2)	12,032	
March		
2 N. Forest (h) 1-0 (Dewell)	9,577	
5 Man City (a) 0-3	20,404	
8 A. Villa (h) 1-1 (Mountfield OG, Pembroke)	20,567	
13 Coventry (h) 1-2 (Rees)	6,604	
16 Norwich (h) 0-1	41,752	
22 Man Utd (h) 1-4 (Dewell, Hughes, Rees, Black)	18,487	
30 Sheff Utd (a) 1-2 (Elstrup)	11,157	
April		
1 Spurs (h) 0-0	11,322	
12 Man Utd (h) 3-2 (Elstrup, Farrell, Black)	12,603	
13 Wimbledon (h) 0-1	8,219	
20 Sunderland (a) 1-2 (Rees)	11,157	
May		
4 Tottenham (a) 0-1	18,009	

LEAGUE APPEARANCES, including subs in brackets:
Chamberlain and Dreyer over 300; Rees 294; Elstrup, Preece and Black 26; McDonough 205; Hughes 17; 250; Johnson 242.

THE RUMBELOWS CUP
September 25 Bradford (h) 1-1 (Harvey).....5,120
October 10 Bradford (a) 1-1 (Harvey).....6,100

THE ZENITH DS CUP
December 10 Chelsea (h) 5-1 (Farrell 2, Rees, Elstrup, Black) 5,759
February 18 Chelsea (a) 1-1 (Dreyer, Wan on pens).....3,849
26 C. Palace (a) 1-3 (Rees).....7,170

APPEARANCES: Chamberlain 3, Dreyer 2, Beaumont 2, Hughes 1