

NEEDED A FORWARD WITH REAL BUST

Gallant Defence Gave Them Hard-Earned Point By CHILTERN

HAD the Town possessed one forward with real finishing power they could have ended at Peterborough on Saturday, their long run of over 12 months without an away win.

They found Peterborough edgy and ill at ease and with obvious forward problems of their own, but they could not take full advantage of it because of the lack of drive in their own attack.

So, they had to be content with a draw, but it was a point that was more than welcome.

BEFORE the team left on Saturday, Gordon Turner, who was at the ground for treatment to his damaged ankle, said to me, "It will be a great performance if the lads can get a point. Then, I think we can beat Oldham next Saturday."

For the clash with promotion-challenging Oldham, Turner should be able to return, along with Mike Fairchild, if thought necessary.

There is a chance that Ray

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occasion, he went in hard and emerged with the ball on an encouraging number of occasions.

In addition, he mostly continued to make good use of it by finding the men in front of him.

Forwards Could Not Press Persistently

AS a whole, the defence had a busy, harassing afternoon because Peterborough, according to the estimate of their manager, Jack Fairbrother, had 75 per cent of the play, and I would not say that he was all that much wrong. Trouble was that the forwards were seldom strong enough to mount persistent pressure, so that

FOR THE RECORDS

PETERBOROUGH U. 0,
LUTON T. 1

PETERBOROUGH U. —
Duff, Singleton, Sissons;
Cooper, Rankmore, Pearce;
Moulden, Horobin, Dougan,
Graham, McNamee.

LUTON T. — Baynam;
Morton, Baynam, Pearce,
Fincham, McGuffie; Wal-
den, Riddick, McKechnie,
Weir, Jardine.

Referee. — A. W. Sparling,
Grimsby.

Attendance. — 10,687.

the ball was continually coming back to the defenders, who had few breathing spaces.

All along the afternoon when he was in a bad spell, Manager Bill Harvey maintained that Gordon Fincham would prove to be the right buy for centre-half.

Fincham Justifies Manager's Faith

THERE were times when I began to doubt it, but I am more than glad to report that Fincham has "come good."

His recent displays have stamped him as a splendid player, and he stood out on Saturday for the way in which he tackled the man-sized job of keeping the shackles on Dougan, the one Peterborough inside-forward who carried a threat.

From the start, Fincham was determined and dominant, making a great barrier down the middle, and his height enabled him to clear with his head time and time again.

A Goal Would Have Been A Surprise

NOR were conditions at all in favour of defenders because heavy rain made the pitch, which was hard underneath, greasy and treacherous, with the result that the players slipped about as if

'PICTORIAL' WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

they were on a skating rink.

Result was a scrambling, scrappy affair, in which a goal to either side would have come as a mild surprise.

True, scoring chances did drop up, more of them to Peterborough, while the finishers were poor, but McKechnie had a good one for the Town in the first half when he shot wide of the far post.

Hat-trick Of Goals Disallowed

AN unusual happening was a hat-trick of disallowed goals by Graham, who handled when putting in the first two and was penalised for a foul on Baynam on the third occasion.

The goalkeeper suffered damage to his shoulder, but this is not serious. Throughout, Baynam was in splendid form, handling the greasy ball confidently and he cut out in sure fashion, many centres.

It took Morton some time to settle down in the conditions and to take the measure of McNamee, but he did so splendidly and turned in another fine performance.

First Blank Sheet Away From Home

THERE was a rugged, hard-tackling display from Bramwell who, however, lost some marks for the number of corners he gave away rather needlessly. All the same, it was an excellent show by the defence who kept a blank sheet away from home for the first time this season.

Forward, it was rather a different story because the line did not settle down to an ordered pattern and there was the need for more drive at inside-forward.

Certainly, both Riddick and Weir came back to help out the defence, but they were not dan-

gerous, although Riddick, made a

McKechnie Was In Rankmore's Grip

WITHOUT the sort of support he was entitled to expect, McKechnie was pretty well boxed in by Rankmore, who certainly had nothing like such a difficult time as that faced by Fincham.

Only flashes of his best form came from Walden, and while Jardine certainly brought extra dash to the left wing, he would persist in running into trouble, and much of it could have been avoided by using the ball more quickly.

Weakened Reserves Deserved A Point

BECAUSE of the needs of the first team, the Town Reserve's line-up had a peculiar look about Northampton Town Reserves at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, with two apprentice professionals and an amateur in the team, and Mark Lownds leading the attack.

However, they were good value for their point, gained through a clever goal by Alan Clark in the 50th minute, which wiped out a goal by Lines a minute before the interval.

Showing great fighting spirit, Luton rocked Northampton in the second half, but the winner just eluded them.

Clark's goal stamped him as one of the class players on the field, and there were also good displays from Tinsley—back in form after the Spurs' thrashing—Robin Glander and apprentice Chris Long.