

Town Won Without Sparkling

By CHILTERN

LUTON T. 3, WREXHAM 1

NO team can do more than win when two vital points are at stake, as they were at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, and the Town duly made their haul seven out of the last eight.

At the same time, some notice must be taken of the manner in which the success was achieved and it must be said that the Town's form was none too impressive. In fact, there have been times this season when they have played better at home and been beaten.

On the other hand, both teams probably found the transition from muddy conditions to a hard surface and lively ball somewhat irksome and the net result was a scrappy, scrambling sort of game which raised precious little enthusiasm from the crowd of 7,094.

It could be argued in the Town's favour, perhaps, that they were opposed by poor quality opposition which often affects a team adversely. Yet, on the other hand, Wrexham had a good deal of possession of the ball in mid-field, but they moved it about aimlessly and without any obvious plan.

So far as punch was concerned it scarcely existed at all and the Town certainly were better in this department. Surprisingly, it was LOWNDS, moving through quickly to beat the offside trap who put the Town ahead after 25 minutes and their lead would have been longer at half-time but for some stupendous saves by Fleet, particularly from O'Rourke and Walden. In addition, a shot from Turner struck the foot of a post.

Wrexham's hope of a reprieve from relegation were finally dashed early in the second half when the Town scored twice in four minutes.

PERFECT O'ROURKE HEADER

First O'ROURKE jumped high to make a perfect header from a corner by Walden, and three minutes later, Lownds was moving through for a second goal when he was pulled down by Fleet and TURNER scored from the penalty spot.

Wrexham never had the forward power to suggest that they could recover from such a position, but they did cause a mild scare 19 minutes from the end when COLBRIDGE seized on a mistake by Morton to score.

Just once after that did they look like getting right back into the game and that was when a shot by Phythian was deflected just wide.

For the defence, this was a very comfortable afternoon's work, with Pacey dominating the middle, and with Morton and Lownds, forming a half-back line that put the Welsh forward line out of gear.

Bramwell played his usual, hard-tackling, determined game and McBain overcame the handicap of a cut mouth which occurred in the second minute to put up another forceful performance.

There was not a great deal of a difficult nature for Baynham and criticism of him is limited to the fact that his kicking was not always what it should have been.

Forward, although there was sufficient thrust to bring the best out of Fleet, who saved Wrexham from a heavier defeat, there was not real cohesion in the build-up of attacks.

Neither Turner nor Reid was in his best form, with the result that O'Rourke, enthusiastic as ever, had to attempt quite a lot on his own.

Walden received more of the ball than did Whittaker and was dangerous at times, while the outside-left showed plenty of fighting spirit in the way in which he came back when assistance was needed.

LUTON T.: Baynham; McBain, Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, Lownds; Walden, Turner, O'Rourke, Reid, Whittaker.

WREXHAM: Fleet; Robertson, McGill; Barnes, Morrall, Johnson; Bent, Myerscough, Phythian, McMillan, Colbridge.

Referee: D. A. Corbett, Wolverhampton.