

DOLMAN'S DAY

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 1
Fellowes

CHESTERFIELD 1
Ponting

LUTON.—Dolman; Lutterloch, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Vinall, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Parris.

CHESTERFIELD.—Moody; Milburn, Kidd; McMillen, Seagrave, Devine; Hughes, Clifton, Ponting, Ramage, Bonass.

Referee: S. Hadley, Leicester.

Recently I have discovered quite a lot of "tetchy" folk among the loyal following of Luton Town, and therefore have to make a careful choice of words to describe reactions to the exhibition the Town gave in the struggle with Chesterfield.

So while a host of followers who may not be quite so loyal or so patient were declaiming that the display was inexcusable, my word for it must be that it was inexplicable. That is a good word, too, for comparatively they were not the same team as trounced Blackburn Rovers, even allowing for the two changes.

If you were asked to decide the better side of Blackburn or Chesterfield I am not sure there would be a big majority for Chesterfield; indeed, I fancy it would be about "fifty-fifty." Yet Blackburn received a welting, but Chesterfield nearly welted Luton.

FALSITY OF FORM RECKONING

So once again was proved the falsity of form reckoning, and a survey of the results week by week of Second Division matches in particular proves that this Division has more entanglements than any other—more upsets of one's judgment of what is likely to occur.

Chesterfield were superior in every phase of the game, and while I do not overlook the wonderful football of Devine and Clifton, the all important factor was their team work.

In this respect they gave Luton further confirmation of the necessity of team work, and more than ever I am convinced that the Town will have to take steps to improve that aspect of their play if they are to hold their own in this Division.

NO TIME TO BE LOST

Nor is there any time to be lost, for every point has to be earned, and it will be even harder to gather points in the second half of the season than it is now, for the struggle for survival will be more and more desperate as the season advances.

We saw sufficient good football from individual players of the Town to know that they could hold their own with others if they had the intelligence to work together, but there was too much of the haphazard about their display, and gallantly though the defenders played, they were not immune from that criticism.

If Chesterfield had been able to shoot well they would have had the points in their locker at half-time, for they had far more chances than the Town, and it was unaccountable how some of the openings were missed. And that indicates that the Town defence was none too happy.

FAILURE OF THE FORWARDS

But the failure of the forwards threw a tremendous amount of work on the rearguard, and a large measure of praise must be given to Dolman, Nelson, Smith, and, with some qualification, to Lutterloch, for their bold fight.

Chesterfield's attacking line could hold and manoeuvre long enough to give confidence to the men behind. The Town forwards were never together at all, and it was curious that their best should come when the forwards were reshuffled. Was it curious? Perhaps not, for Vinall was very different as a centre-forward from what he was at outside-right.

In any event the Town forward line never showed the speed or the craft of Chesterfield's attack; the two lines were about level in their qualities of marksmanship, but in nothing else.

WOULD HAVE STAYED AWAY

It is all very well to be wise after the event. One heard on all sides after the match that Vinall should never have been moved from centre-forward. Perhaps he should not have been, but if Payne had not been included half the supporters would have been angry, and not a few would have stayed away.

Payne did not have a good match, but rarely did he get a ball running right for him, and the line was disjointed, slow, and showed little individual craft. Vinall worked hard, but on the wing he kept stopping with the ball to wait for someone to get in position. They did take up position — Chesterfield's defenders.

Dawes did not shine, and although

Roberts worked very hard as usual he was not able to get the ball to obey his intentions. Parris was as good as any forward except that he failed to take chances which the others never had.

GOOD HALF BACKS

This line could not work smoothly, but that was not the fault of either Finlayson or Fellowes.

Both flank halves played as well as ever, and I thought that Fellowes vied with Devine as the most effective all round player on view. He was always working either in defence or attack, and was one of the few who could match pace with the opposition.

Nelson has been subject to a deal of criticism, and will be, but not through his own faults so much as those of his associates. I took special notice for special reasons on Saturday. Chesterfield's centre-half had not to bolt out



to the wings more than two or three times during the game, but once more Nelson had to spend almost half his time chasing wingers who had slipped the backs.

NELSON PLAYED WELL

I thought Nelson played remarkably well in the circumstances, though when there is real danger to the Town goal I wish he would boot the ball hard instead of trying to outwit desperate opponents by footwork. That his aim is to serve his forwards is obvious, but safety first should be the motto when there is opposition such as Chesterfield provided.

Lutterloch played at right-back. He was soon regarded as a weak spot by the visitors, and they played on him. For a long time he seemed rather lost, but gradually improved and in the second half did very well indeed, though not by any means an improvement on King. Still, this was his first test in this class, and I would not say a word that would diminish his confidence. I still feel he can be developed into a very fine full back.

SMITH WEIGHED THEM UP

Smith was roused by the methods of Chesterfield, and he more than any other Town player weighed up the worth of the opposition. If they were going to be vigorous, so was he, and it was the right policy. His kicking was good, and if his tackling was not always sound, he never flinched from the clashes that some of the visitors asked for, and for which one or two of them must have felt rather sorry.

Some other Town players could have taken the same line as Smith with good results.

DOLMAN BRILLIANT

Dolman kept goal brilliantly, and to him must go the highest measure of praise.

His work in the first half, even allowing for the good fortune he had when opponents failed to take the simplest of chances, was magnificent, and after this game he should never have any trouble to retain his place.

Confidence is a trait invaluable for a goalkeeper, and since Dolman showed that he had it in circumstances when a lapse might well have been excused, he should never be found wanting in that virtue again.

Features of Chesterfield's play that struck me just as they did most of the spectators, was their speed, their grit, and their team work. It was almost incredible that such a side could have been so heavily defeated on their own ground the week previous.

GRAND FIGHTING SPIRIT

Best of all was their grand fighting spirit. Every man seemed thoroughly imbued with the sentiment that he was fighting for a victory that meant everything possible in the game. It was what one expects to see in the most tense cup-tie struggles, and it revealed the secret of Chesterfield's success.

Moody had much less to do than Dolman, but was rather fortunate on two or three occasions. I liked his backs. They played right on top of the Town wingers, they tackled quickly, and their kicks usually landed right among the forwards.

This first time kicking found the Town defence widespread all too often, and enabled the Chesterfield forwards to create openings quickly, though, hap-

pily for Luton, they were unable to take them.

THE BEST PLAYER

Devine was the best player on view. His enthusiasm, his determination and his craftsmanship were factors that could not be overestimated.

McMillen was good, but not to the same extent. Seagrave played well enough to choke the Town inside forwards in the first hour, and the line as a whole was just about as strong as that of Luton.

Clifton, of whom we have heard so much, showed great cleverness, also had full measure of pluck, and caught trouble through it. Ramage was a potent force, and Ponting useful, though well covered by Nelson. Hughes and Bonass were speedy and tricky enough, but had the best chances of the match and neglected them.

Chesterfield's weakness was in their shooting, and it was a matter of congratulation among Luton's most ardent supporters, that there was even this one weakness, for elsewhere Chesterfield were the better side by a very big margin.

THE GAME

Chesterfield started at a great pace and Ponting should have scored in the first minute. The visitors had the better of the opening play, but the Town scored first. Fellowes, who was very spry, initiated the movement, and Dawes and Vinall carried on; the outside-right centred right into the goalmouth; Payne leaped up as Moody was fisting away, and the best the goalkeeper could do was to push the ball out. FELLOWES had wisely closed up in the centre and his shot passed among a group of players and Moody never saw the ball until too late.

For a time Luton had the better of play territorially, but were unable to make any impression on a sound defence. When Chesterfield did get going there was trouble for Dolman. Hughes had the goal at his mercy, but could not shoot accurately, and the same player missed the target when Dolman was out of goal.

The Town worked hard, but were mastered rather comfortably by the visiting defence, and Chesterfield's forwards gave much trouble. However, their weakness in finishing nullified the midfield brilliance, and at the change over Luton still held their lead.

Luton's defence continued to be very hard worked, and the Town forwards could make no headway against the determined resistance of the visitors.

It was simply due to Chesterfield they should get on terms, and after Nelson had been drawn out of position because the visiting left wing, reinforced by Devine and Ramage had the Town running the wrong way, the ball was whipped across, and PONTING made no mistake with a fast high shot, Dolman being helpless to save.

It was some time before the Town got going effectively, but Finlayson and Fellowes strove hard to produce life in the forwards. As surely as a Luton forward got the ball a Chesterfield player forced him to part without getting the ball where he wished, or took it from him.

Parris and Vinall tried hard to get through, and once Roberts dived headlong at a ball but it travelled gently into Moody's safe keeping. When Vinall was brought from outside-right to centre,



and Payne took the inside-right berth with Dawes on the extreme, there was more life in the Town attack, and Chesterfield began to concentrate on defence.

Millburn used his hands to foil Parris, but the referee evidently did not detect the offence. Two or three corner kicks followed, and Dawes and Roberts brought Moody to attention very quickly.

STRUCK BACK

Chesterfield soon struck back, and Dolman was given further opportunity of showing his worth, as were Nelson and the backs. Play went from end to end and Moody managed by a great effort to dive to a fine shot from Dawes, and then the latter gave Parris a fine opening, but he shot wide.

A free kick was taken by Dawes, but with little hope of driving a hole through a mass of opponents. The Town were now doing much better, and Chesterfield were glad to get any respite, but they were good enough to challenge whenever the ball came forward, and Clifton failed badly when he should have scored during one breakaway.

Chesterfield were attacking when the final whistle was sounded.

Attendance : 16,950; receipts: £961 10s. 6d.