

Chesterfield's Flying Start Against Luton

Four Goals In The First Half

(By Chiltern)

CHESTERFIELD 5
Clifton (2), Fisher, McMillen,
Bonass.

LUTON TOWN 2
Stephenson, Ferguson.

CHESTERFIELD: Moody; Milburn,
Kidd; McMillen, Sliman, Weightman;
Hughes, Clifton, Fisher, Ramage,
Bonass.

LUTON TOWN: Coen; Mackey,
Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes;
Ferguson, Connelly, Vinall, Roberts,
Stephenson.

Referee: S. Hadley, Leicester.

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LUTON TOWN'S BIGGEST MISFORTUNE AT CHESTERFIELD was that they lost the toss. They were set to face a wind that almost reached gale force, but that really cannot be offered as an excuse for the defeat.

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THE MAIN REASON WAS THAT THE DEFENCE was not good enough to counteract the fast work of the home forwards. The backs positioned badly, and the whole defence was often spreadeagled by the wide flung passes of the inside men.

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ON THE RUN OF THE PLAY the Town did not deserve to be four goals down at the interval. That has often been the case this season, and it has frequently happened that after a spell of hot attacking by the Town forwards, their opponents have moved down the field and scored a simple goal.

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THAT IS WHAT WAS HAPPENING ON SATURDAY. Luton began the stronger, and although they were playing against the wind, they looked the likelier side in attack. However, two goals in two minutes early in the game took a lot of the wind out of their sails.

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NEITHER COULD BE CALLED A GOOD GOAL. The first came after the ball had crossed the goal twice. Eventually, Ramage pushed it through Mackey's legs, and CLIFTON, who was unmarked, was able to pick his spot, and hit the ball past Coen from a few yards out.

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CLIFTON WAS AGAIN THE SCORER OF THE SECOND GOAL. This time Hughes made the opening when he passed inside to Clifton, who made no mistake, again from close range. The home side had much the better of the exchanges after this, and Bonass beat Mackey to

centre for FISHER to put on another goal.

AFTER THIS, THE TOWN SEEMED TO WAKE UP with a start, and they played their best football of the match for the next ten minutes. Several times the home goal looked like falling, and it was well for them that Moody was at the top of his form. He stopped great efforts by Vinall, Roberts and Connelly.

THEN CHESTERFIELD GOT GOING AGAIN, and McMILLEN put them four up when the ball came to him following a scrimmage in the goal-mouth. Smith kicked the ball away, but the referee decided that it had already crossed the line, and awarded a goal, despite the protests of the Town players. The official was in a much better position to see than I was, so I cannot argue on the point.

LUTON TOOK A LONG TIME TO SETTLE DOWN in the second half, and they had one or two escapes in the opening minutes. If they had had a penalty awarded against them when Nelson pulled down Fisher, there could have been little grumbling, but the referee waved play on.

GRADUALLY, THE TOWN FORWARDS GOT GOING, and a cross pass by Connelly gave STEPHENSON an opportunity of shooting first time, and the ball found the far corner of the net. Moody was beaten all the way, for it was a magnificent shot.



JOCK FINLAYSON

THEN VINALL HAD THE WORST POSSIBLE LUCK when he broke through, and hit the underpart of the bar with a smashing drive. Although the Town pressed fairly consistently, it was not until 15 minutes from the end that they again reduced the lead.

FERGUSON WAS THE SCORER, and he dashed into the middle to shoot past Moody from close range after Finlayson had placed a free kick neatly into the goalmouth. However, whatever hope this success gave Luton was destroyed seven minutes later when Hughes again beat Smith and centred for BONASS to score the home side's fifth goal.

THE CONDITIONS WERE ALL AGAINST GOOD FOOTBALL, and the ball was always difficult to control. It was in the air far too much, but what the game lacked in science it made up for in interest. Play was always hard, and if there were numerous free kicks, this could be attributed to the eagerness of the players.

THE TOWN WERE BELOW THEIR BEST and where they showed up badly by comparison with their opponents was at full back and on the wings. They had no back to compare with the cool, collected Milburn, while neither Stephenson nor Ferguson attained the same success as Hughes and Bonass.

STEPHENSON HAD MORE MATERIAL THAN FERGUSON, but he could rarely lose Milburn, and did little of note. Ferguson was badly supported after the first quarter of an hour, and was left out of the game for long periods.

NEITHER MACKEY NOR SMITH were a match for the pace and skill of the home wingers. They contributed to their downfall not playing close enough to them, and the positioning was faulty throughout.

THE HALF BACKS DID WELL, with Finlayson outstanding. Nelson had to do a lot of running about, and got through a tremendous amount of work, while Fellowes, although handicapped by a nasty injury, was always effective.

COEN HAD NO CHANCE WITH ANY OF THE GOALS, but he might find it to his advantage if he were to come out more. Vinall was back to something like his best, and he played grand football. Roberts did his usual quota of hard work, but Connelly did not do as much graft as he might. He was always playing cleverly, and there is no doubt that he is a good footballer.