

Redfern's Goals Earn Invaluable Points

(By CHILTERN)

CHESTERFIELD 1
McMillen
LUTON TOWN 2
Redfern (2)

CHESTERFIELD.—Middleton; Milburn, Kidd; McMillen, Seagrave, Weightman; Hughes, Lyon, Milligan, Ramage, Luke.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Carroll, Redfern, Billington, Connelly, Stephenson.

Referee.—G. W. Jones, Nottingham.

If Luton Town gain promotion, it will be their away record that has put them in the First Division, and they have pulled off some truly amazing wins on tour.

Perhaps none has been so meritorious as their success against Chesterfield at Saltergate on Saturday. Faced by a redoubtable side that had not been beaten at home since September, they buckled to their task with zest, and their indomitable spirit and their ability to snatch their chances won them the points.

They had several tough breaks, and the first and worst came when Fred Roberts lost the toss, and the Town had to face a wind, which if not approaching gale force, was strong enough to make things very difficult for the team that had to defend against it.

WIND DROPPED IN SECOND HALF

The result was that Chesterfield had most of the play in the first half, and then, when Luton should have had the advantage after the interval, the wind dropped, and we had drizzling rain it its stead.

Taking into consideration the great advantage Chesterfield enjoyed in the first half, the Town's win was astonishing. The home side were constantly on the attack before the interval, but some deadly tackling by backs and halves, and a disinclination on the part of the Chesterfield forwards to shoot, saved the day.

Luton were always in with a winning chance when they reached half-time on level terms, and Chesterfield must have been kicking themselves during the break for the poverty of their finishing.

CHESTERFIELD SHOOTING WAS POOR

As it happened, they had the chances to remedy this during the second half, but although they made clever openings there was no forward deadly enough near goal to apply the finishing touch.

Every credit must be given to the Town defence for a courageous display. They were badly overworked in the first half, and almost as soon as they had kicked the ball clear, it was back again.

They had a terrific battering, but never faltered, and each man deserves special praise for his part. It would not have

been surprising if Chesterfield had been two or three goals up at the interval.

REDFERN'S GLORIOUS GOAL

If Luton had been fortunate enough to have the elements in their favour, I am sure they would have put the issue beyond any possible doubt. When the forwards got away they were altogether more menacing at close quarters than Chesterfield, and this was proved when Redfern gave them the lead after five minutes.

Chesterfield had been battering away at the Town goal, and we had seen nothing of the Town forwards except as auxiliary helpers in defence.

Then Finlayson came out with the ball and sent Carroll away. The outside-right did not try to beat Kidd, who came to tackle him, but pushed the ball through to Redfern, who had run into an open space.

REDFERN got the ball under control beautifully, and as Middleton came out to narrow the angle, he rammed the ball low into the far corner of the net.

MILLIGAN DID A LOT OF BARGING

It was a glorious goal and for a time the Town caused the home defence plenty of trouble. The forwards were moving smoothly again, but Chesterfield were giving the ball plenty of boot, and although it was often running out of play, the long, down-the-middle passes to Milligan were always dangerous.

Milligan was doing a lot of barging and pushing that was a long way from being in the laws, and once he pulled Dreyer off the ball, and was allowed to go through by the referee. He had a couple of tilts at Dreyer and King, too, when, neither had the ball and were simply covering Coen.

EQUALISER BY HALF-BACK

The first time, Dreyer sat down in rather surprised fashion, but King was ready for him, and the centre-forward went flying over the back's shoulder. The referee had a word with each, and then bounced up the ball in the penalty area.

Although few shots had reached Coen, the equaliser was often imminent, and it came in unexpected fashion. A bouncing ball beat Dunsmore, and he stopped it with his hands.

Milburn took the free kick from some 40 yards, and the ball came back off a crowd of players. It went to McMILLEN, who is famous for his hard shooting, and he drove in a first-time, left-foot shot that threaded its way past several players, and crashed against the inside of the post before rattling into the back of the net.

DISINCLINED TO SHOOT

It was one of the most spectacular goals I have ever seen, but there was a large slice of luck about it, for the right-half merely blinded the ball in the general direction of goal, and if it had been a few inches to the right it would have passed outside.

That was after 26 minutes, and for the rest of the half Chesterfield tried desperately to take the lead. They pressed hard enough, but they were disinclined to take any risks in the matter of shooting.

I should have thought that McMillen's effort would have been a lesson to them, but it was only seldom that anything reached Coen.

MISSSES BY LYON AND MILLIGAN

Reaching the interval on level terms gave Luton a wonderful chance of taking both points, but we had a lot of scares before they eventually took the lead.

With the wind dropping, Chesterfield began to attack again, and once Lyon looked a certain scorer when he raced through on his own. His final effort was very weak, and it passed harmlessly outside the post.

There was another escape shortly afterwards when the ball kept bobbing about the goalmouth, and Milligan completely missed his kick at close range. Then Roberts, standing on the goal line, stopped a shot from Lyon.

However, as the half progressed, Luton got better, and Stephenson made a shot from a free-kick that startled Middleton. Afterwards, he missed from two or three yards, but apparently did not see the ball until it was right on him. Actually, it would have been better if it had hit him; then it was almost bound to have gone in.

REDFERN DOES THE TRICK AGAIN

Apart from these escapes, there were few signs of goals, and the game looked like petering out into a draw when a quick move sent Billington through.

He made a pass down the middle to REDFERN, who had again positioned himself admirably, and the inside-right turned the ball past Middleton for another opportunistic goal.

That was 15 minutes from the end, and after that the Town took a grip on the game. Milligan was limping slightly, and went to outside-right, Lyon taking over the centre-forward berth, and Hughes being at inside-right.

A LAST MINUTE LET-OFF

Luton kept the ball in the home half but Chesterfield pulled themselves together for a final effort, and Lyon is probably still wondering how he failed to score the equaliser a couple of minutes from the end.

A desperate attack forced the Luton defence back, and during the scramble that ensued, Lyon was left with only Coen to beat from about five yards.

All the Luton fans present nearly had heart failure, for it seemed impossible to miss the chance. If he had blazed away, he must have scored, but he tried to place the ball with the inside of his foot, and merely sent it trickling to Coen, who picked up jubilantly.

THRILLING END TO WORTHY BATTLE

That was the last chance they got, and it was a thrilling end to a match that, although spoilt to some extent by the wind, was a worthy battle between two highly placed teams.

Both overcame the conditions in commendable fashion, but Luton were better together as a team. They never had

so much of the play, but they did deserve their win.

Their defence was quite as good as that of Chesterfield, and the forwards, as a whole, were more dangerous, and had the more method.

They were faster on the ball, too, and their positional play was far in advance of that of Chesterfield.

There is a wonderful team spirit among the Luton players, and they are helping each other and playing for the good of the team all the time.

CHESTERFIELD'S STRONG HALF-BACKS

There was not a lot of rough play considering the vital points at stake, and the thing that upset the home crowd more than anything else was the offside tactics adopted by the Town.

They have this off to a fine art, and Milligan was caught in the trap time and again. In the second half Chesterfield tried the same thing, and play deteriorated accordingly, though Luton were not caught so easily as were the home forwards.

Chesterfield have a very good side, and their main strength lies in their half-back line where all three played magnificently.

Seagrave, who is much younger than his scanty hair suggests, set himself out to tail Billington, and he succeeded in blotting out the centre-forward as far as goals were concerned.

GAVE INSIDE-MEN MORE SCOPE

However, he could not stop the centre-forward linking up with the inside-men and wing-men, and although closely shadowed, he always contrived to be a real menace.

The fact that one man was detailed to watch Billington gave Redfern and Connelly more scope, and the former recognised this, and was always lying well up when an attack was being made.

Apart from his goals, Redfern was the best of the forwards, and worked very hard. His footwork was polished, and both his successes were classic examples of correct positioning.

CONNELLY DID NOT NEED THE BALL

Connelly was not quite so good as he has been in recent matches, and showed a tendency to "fiddle" at times. However, most of his work was useful, and his genius at working the ball was often apparent. Many times he had McMillen going the wrong way, almost without touching the ball at all.

Stephenson had the beating of Milburn in the first half, and was too quick and clever for the burly back. After the interval the left-winger was almost neglected, and there were long spells when he saw little of the ball.

Often in the second half he dropped back to defence and did a lot of good work in this department.

Carroll again showed what a clever winger he can be, and much of the credit for the first goal can be given to him.

His main fault was that he was not direct enough, and on many occasions held the ball far too long before making his centre. The result was that the defence was able to cover up.

DREYER OUTSTANDING IN DEFENCE

The halves were not a whit behind those of the home side, and Dreyer was the outstanding man in the defence. He improves in every match he plays, and is becoming more polished every week.

It was as well that there was as strong a player as Dreyer at centre-half, otherwise Milligan might have caused a lot of anxiety. As it was, the Irish international found himself in a tight grip, and the way down the middle was effectively blocked.

In the first half Dreyer had a lot of awkwardly bouncing balls to deal with, but he never took the slightest risk.

FINLAYSON AND ROBERTS GREAT WORKERS

As usual, Finlayson was the craftsman, and he played some grand football, as did Roberts, who was up and down all the time. Each got through a tremendous amount of work, but neither ventured among the forwards as much as usual.

In the second half, especially, they played safe, and devoted most of their attentions to defence. This policy paid a handsome dividend, and both wing-halves played a notable part in the triumph.

Dunsmore was more in the picture than King, chiefly because Chesterfield concentrated on their right-wing, and Hughes was plied with any number of passes.

A SLIPPERY HANDFUL

The right-winger was a slippery handful, but once Dunsmore got his measure, he seldom had a clear field. The winger aided Dunsmore to some extent by his practice of taking the ball back, and the Town player was quick to shut him out. Altogether, the left-back had a very good match, and his kicking, considering the vagaries of the wind, was splendid.

King played his part in whole-hearted fashion, and had the beating of Luke for pace. Quick in recovery, he saw to it that the left-winger did little with the small amount of material provided.

The only criticism I have to offer here is that more than once in the second half King hesitated whether he should go straight in to tackle or not. It may have been that an undeserved caution from the referee contributed to this.

Coen made some very fine saves, and saved the situation several times by his quickness in coming out of goal. He had no possible chance with the shot that beat him, and he must have been unsighted until the very last moment.

Here again, I have only one criticism to make, and that is that twice in the second half he punched away centres that he could have caught easily. That was the only blemish, if it can be called such, on a capable display.