

Town Hit Back After Quick Forest Shocks

Duncan Snatched Late Winning Goal

[By Chiltern]

LUTON TOWN 3

Billington, Driver, Duncan.

NOTTS FOREST 2

Brown, Soo (own goal).

AFTER appearing to have this match at Kenilworth-road yesterday well won at the interval, the Town had some shocks in the early stages of the second half, and somewhat unexpectedly found themselves in arrears.

After this temporary fall from grace, they fought back gallantly, but it was not until seven minutes from the end that they obtained the goal which brought them two valuable points.

To DALLY DUNCAN went the honour of scoring the winning goal, and it came direct from a corner kick. As usually happens when he takes a corner, the ball swung, and although Johnstone made two attempts to punch out, the ball had already crossed the line, and the referee, on the spot, promptly awarded a goal.

He was prevailed upon by the Forest players to consult a linesman, but his decision remained unaltered to the great relief of the crowd of 4,000.

Conditions were again bad, although much of the snow was cleared by prisoners-of-war before the match.

PERSISTENCE OF BILLINGTON

Considering everything, we saw quite an entertaining game, and some really good football was produced by both teams on occasions.

The Town were much the better side in the first half, and Driver had the hardest possible luck with a terrific drive that struck the angle of the woodwork.

Sheer persistency on the part of BILLINGTON brought them their first goal after 18 minutes. Driver made a long pass down the middle, and although it seemed impossible for Billington to reach it, he gave chase.

Brigham obtained possession, but the centre-forward beat him, and, bringing the ball close in, scored from close range with a shot that struck a defender en route.

That was the limit of the scoring before the interval, though had the Town been three goals ahead they would not have been flattered.

The Town began the second half as if they would add to their lead, but then it seemed that they had the idea that they could take things easily.

SURPRISE TURN TO GAME

An element of over-cleverness and too close play crept into their work, and the Forest were quick to see their chance.

They began to move the ball about, and after 55 minutes an attack on the right gave BROWN a chance, and finding a gap in defence, he went weaving through to beat Streten, who was unsighted, with a fine low drive.

Five minutes later, a strong attack led to Streten saving brilliantly from Lyman, but the ball was not cleared, and during a melee Brown put in a shot that was deflected into the net by SOO.

This was a surprising turn, but the Town came back strongly, and were rewarded after 68 minutes when DRIVER

capped excellent work by Waugh and Goodyear by shooting past Johnstone from close range.

After that it was anybody's game, and both goals had escapes before Duncan's corner-kick swung the scales back in favour of the Town.

The second half certainly provided plenty of excitement, but the Town should not have been in the position of having to struggle so hard for victory.

Driver shows improvement with every match in which he plays, and was the best of the Luton attack.

BILLINGTON WAS UNLUCKY

Billington was always a source of worry to the Forest defence, despite the fact that he was closely watched. Had the going been anything but what it was, he would have scored more than one goal.

Duncan was more effective than he was against Swansea, and made some grand centres. Goodyear had quite a good match in a strange position, but lacked punch, and Waugh, clever in approach, was rather disappointing in his finishing.

However, the state of the going must be considered, and mistakes were unavoidable.

Of the defence, it was Gardner who most took the eye in the first half when he played brilliantly, and most effectively shadowed Brown. He did well later, too.

Soo was prominent before the interval for his grand service to the forwards, and many of his through passes were perfectly made.

Gager was not so dominating as usual, though he did nothing seriously wrong.

Cooke and Lake had some trying moments during this time, but both did creditably, and Streten, making his first appearance for Luton, captured the imagination of the spectators with an exhibition of first-class goalkeeping.

His agility was something to marvel at, and he showed shrewd intelligent anticipation throughout. The Town have a real capture here. Another thing that struck me was the length of his kicking—more often than not he sent the ball over the centre line.

The Forest were inclined to "hand it out" at times, and were most fortunate not to have two penalties awarded against them in the first half.

Soo and Billington received knee injuries, but it is hoped that both will be able to turn out on Saturday.

LUTON TOWN: B Streten; Cooke, Lake; Soo, Gager, Gardner; Waugh, Goodyear, Billington, Driver, Duncan.

NOTTS FOREST: Johnstone; Brigham, McCall; Pritty, Blagg, Simpson; Scott, Brown, Barks, Edwards, Lyman.

Referee: G L Hille, Leicester.