

Town's Hopes Dashed In Dramatic Last Minute

By Chiltern

CARDIFF CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 0
Rees.

Never was the glorious uncertainty of football better illustrated than at Ninian Park on Saturday, when the City, who had never really been in the game with a winning chance, snatched victory in the closing seconds.

There could have been no more dramatic finish to any match. With the referee already looking at his watch, nothing seemed more probable than the Town would earn their second away point in succession.

Then, with a bare 15 seconds left, the ball landed in the back of the Town net during a sharp City raid.

That they did not deserve to lose and were unlucky in the manner in which the deciding goal came, will be small consolation to the Town, who, on the run of the play, should have had this match safely won long before the end.

The City had few real scoring chances until that late winner from REES who made no mistake about crashing the ball home when it fell loose after Hollyman had made a long pass down the middle.

On the other hand, the Town had two good opportunities in the first half, but Canning foiled first Daniel, and then Billington. Then, soon after the interval a shot from Connelly struck the post with Canning well beaten, and the goalkeeper was similarly placed when a pile-driver from Billington went sizzling past the post.

However, supporters can take consolation from the fact that the Town gave a first-class display, and the City officials and supporters freely admitted that the Town were the best team they have seen this season. And yet, the 'Spurs won there 3-0!

By virtue of their speed on the ball, their ability to find each other with quick passes and general teamwork, the Town made their opponents look a very ordinary team.

INSIDE TRIO A SUCCESS

The new inside forward formation of Daniel, Billington and Connelly was a great success, and Connelly did the right thing by always keeping the ball on the move. Daniel was a terrific worker, while Billington, the best forward, was always a danger.

Only weaknesses were on the wings where neither Shanks nor Waugh could make much of the opposing full-backs. Waugh was the better, but he has often been more successful than this.

The defence, with Gager as the sheet anchor, completely subdued the City attack. Soo and Owen were so much on top of their jobs that Rees and Blair were seldom seen, and Gager never gave Richards the slightest opportunity.

Hughes delighted the Welsh crowd of 45,000 with his coolness and cleverness, and Cooke provided the dour part of the partnership. Behind was Bernard Streten, always ready to leave his goal to pick up a ball which looked like becoming a threat.

CARDIFF CITY: Canning; Lever, Sherwood; Hollyman, Stansfield, Baker; Gibson, Rees, Richards, Blair, Wardle.

LUTON TOWN: B. Streten; Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Gager, Owen; Shanks, Daniel, Billington, Connelly, Waugh.