

Amazing Bradford Rally Shook The Town

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN	3
Ottewell, Billington, Brennan	
BRADFORD	3
Horsman (2), Downie	

When the second half began in this match at Kenilworth-road, the Town looked likely candidates to set up the day's highest score.

They had beaten the Bradford defence three times and had had several near misses in addition in the course of a grand display before the interval.

Twenty-five minutes later they were somewhat ruefully surveying the wreckage of their confident hopes of a sweeping victory.

These were completely shattered in an inspired spell of five minutes by the visitors midway through the second half. During this short time, Streten had the mortification of picking the ball out of the back of the net on three occasions.

The crowd of 11,418 watched in awe-struck silence as the Bradford forwards carved great holes in the Town defence, and the change which was brought about was almost unbelievable.

From a team which was taking a hammering, Bradford became a confident combination and went very near to snatching a sensational victory.

The Town were thrown completely out of their stride, but it seemed to most of those present that they had been caught napping through being lulled into a sense of false security.

HORSMAN'S opportunism began the Town's downfall, for his two goals in rather less than a minute gave the visitors the first hint of what could be achieved.

ADVANTAGE WAS PRESSED HOME

Taking advantage of the reaction these goals brought in the Town team, Bradford were quick to press home their advantage and DOWNIE brought that amazing five minutes to an end with a header which Streten should have saved.

Desperately, the Town tried to rally and regain some of their first half smoothness, but they were faced with a different proposition altogether, and Bradford had no intention of losing the point which had come their way so unexpectedly.

The nearest attempts to further goals came from Bradford, particularly when Gardiner sent the ball narrowly over his own bar, and when Horsman let loose a full-blooded drive in the last minute, which Streten was glad to punch away.

What a different story the first half had told, with the Town on top for long periods, and taking the lead inside two minutes.

For this good start they were indebted to OTTEWELL, who took his chance splendidly when Soo pushed the ball through and found Farr out of position.

AND THEN TWO MORE

Another goal by BRENNAN 20 minutes later, when Bradford were appealing for offside and Farr had come rushing out 25 yards in an attempt to clear, put the Town well on top.

They gave the visitors' defence no rest and BILLINGTON added the third after 32 minutes from a pass by Daniel. The inside-right himself was unlucky later with a shot which Farr diverted on to the post.

In losing such a commanding lead, the Town disappointed their supporters, and the defence was not impressive in the second half.

Cooke, in particular, had an unhappy match, and the remaining members of this department were not seen at their best when Bradford gained the initiative for the first time.

Soo's attempts to keep the attack on the move sometimes left a gap in defence and Horsman frequently drew Hall from the middle. Gardiner fell away after a splendid first half, partly because of a muscle injury, and Hughes though he gave Deplidge little rope, caused some misgiving on occasions by delaying his clearances.

Streten could be faulted for the third goal, but apart from that, did nothing wrong and much that was invaluable.

The forwards scintillated in the first half and were seldom seen in comparable form after the interval.

Billington was always a lively leader, and Ottewell's display in the first half was one of the best he has given since joining the club. Daniel was a trier all the time, but Waugh's opportunities were limited, and Brennan, once again, did not look completely at home on the wing.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Cooke, Hughes; Soo, Hall, Gardiner; Brennan, Daniel, Billington, Ottewell, Waugh.

BRADFORD: Farr; Stephen, Hepworth; White, Greenwood, Henry; Deplidge, Neil, Horsman, Downie, Elliott.