

City Snatched A Point After Hard Struggle

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1

Daniel

CARDIFF CITY 1

Hullett

Although clever, polished football was not a notable feature, 22,112 spectators, third biggest League gate of the season at Kenilworth-road, had full value for their money on Saturday.

They saw a fast, stirring, hard-fought struggle in which the City's promotion hopes nearly took a hard knock.

Not until five minutes from the end did they manage to score the goal which enabled them to make a division of the points, a reward which they richly deserved.

The City, a speedy go-ahead lot, though with scarcely a First Division look about them, had gone near to securing the equaliser during heavy pressure in the second half.

However, the Town defence, standing firm, looked likely to survive and retain their first clean sheet since Boxing Day when HULLETT, ever on the look-out for the odd chance, swept the ball past Streten from close range.

The Town made a very promising start to the match, and were the more effective side during the first half hour. They took the lead through DANIEL, who capped a brilliant manoeuvre by Soo with a hard low drive which sent the ball ricochetting into the net off the inside of the post.

Cardiff's forwards were held up time and again by the Town's off-side tactics, and Hullett was often caught in the trap.

Not until the second half did they find a way of defeating this plan, and then they were a more powerful force.

powerful force.

IT WAS THE DEFENDERS' DAY

Still, neither set of forwards could claim parity with the defences, a feature of whose play was the quickness and grimness of the tackling.

Movements were frequently broken up in midfield before they had a chance to develop, and both half-back lines were particularly strong.

The Town had two energetic, hard-working wing halves in Soo and Gardiner, and apart from a short spell in the first half, Hall was very much the master of the situation in the middle of the field.

Cooke showed a decided improvement on some of his recent performances, and Hughes struck his best form when it was most needed, and the City were crowding everything into attack. In the first half, some of his clearances were weak.

The crowd cheered Streten off the field at half-time, and he deserved this recognition for two thrilling saves which he made from Hullett.

As for the forwards, they disappointed after a good start. In the opening stages, they moved well, but were rarely seen as a live, cohesive force in the second half.

Ottewell had a very good first half, and then faded out of the picture, as did Daniel, and with Duggan usually held by Stansfield, little came from the inside trio after the interval.

Waugh, with more support might have caused real danger to the City, but Brennan obviously is not very happy on the extreme wing, and has not brought the solution to the long-standing problem.

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

CARDIFF CITY: Canning; Lever, Sherwood; Williams, Stansfield, Baker; Gibson, Rees, Hullett, Stitfall, Wardle.

Referee: L. E. Gibbs, Reading.