

Defences Had Their Day At Leicester

By Chiltern

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In four meetings this season with Leicester, the Town have not been able to register a victory, but they would have done so at Filbert-street on Saturday had their forwards shown the same deadliness in finishing as in the Cup-ties.

Alternatively, there would have been two points to add to the quota instead of one, had the decision in another disputed goal incident a few minutes from the end, gone their way.

The match lacked the sparkle of the Cup encounters, but there was plenty of hard endeavour and a genuine attempt to overcome the difficulties presented by the conditions, which worsened steadily because snow fell throughout the 90 minutes.

Definitely the smarter side in the first half, the Town would not have been flattered by a lead of a couple of goals at the interval, but well though the forwards often functioned in mid-field, the goalmouth punch was missing.

A blank score sheet at half-time came as a surprise after the previous goal-scoring feats of these teams, and the game was 62 minutes old before the ball landed in the net.

Even then, it was no clear-cut affair, for a shot from Griffiths was deflected past Streten by HALL as he dashed across in an effort to intercept.

Just previously, Streten had saved a penalty taken by Lee for hands against Mulvaney, and this failure seemed to give the City defence some extra fire for a few minutes.

minutes.

OWEN CELEBRATED HIS RETURN

Courageously, the Town hit back, and were in arrears only five minutes before OWEN celebrated his return to the League side after an absence of over four months by banging the ball into the net from about 20 yards following a corner.

Both goals had escapes after that and none was closer than when Hall kicked the ball off the line after Griffiths had dribbled past Streten, and left himself with the net yawning in front of him.

Then came the incident which caused much argument afterwards, and which led the Town players to cluster around the referee claiming a goal.

Bradley and Waugh went up together for a centre from Small, and the ball dropped—over the line by a foot, so the Town players said—before Bradley pulled it clear.

But for the second time in a fortnight, the Town found the referee's ruling against them in almost identical circumstances.

Most striking thing about the match from the Town point-of-view was the return to form of the defence as a whole, and there was no weak spot.

Hall had a grip on Lee, Watkins came along with a brilliant all-round display, and Owen more than justified his inclusion, especially in defence, where he was an ever-present force.

These three formed a strong middle line which broke up many attacks in midfield before they had got properly going.

Mulvaney struck the form which brought him promotion from the Reserves and showed complete confidence and Cooke had a very good game.

To complete a defence which allowed few holes to appear, Streten came back to his best with a display in which spectacular saves and good judgment predominated.

All was not quite so well with the attack, where Kiernan and to a lesser extent, Brennan, were the only members to reveal their recent form. Both the inside men were tireless in the way in which they made openings and prompted the others, but they did not receive the best of response.

Arnison never seemed to get going in his usual dashing style, perhaps because McArthur, a fine deputy for Plummer, kept such a close watch on him.

Small was the more effective winger, though he did not always make the best of the material which came his way, and Waugh, much below par, could not fulfil in his finishing, the promise he sometimes revealed in midfield.

LEICESTER CITY: Bradley; Jelly, Scott; Harrison (W), McArthur, King; Griffiths, Paterson, Lee, Chisholm, Dawson.

UTON TOWN: Streten; Mulvaney, Cooke; Watkins, Hall, Owen; Small, Kiernan, Arnison, Brennan, Waugh.

Referee: R. G. Haines.

Swindon.