

Experiments Were Not Successful

By Chiltern

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Those who hoped that changes and the infusion of new blood into the team would enable the Town to repeat some of their previous performances on the Gigg-lane ground, and return to winning form, were doomed to disappointment.

What we saw was another colourless, unenterprising sort of display in which confidence and cohesion were strangely absent.

The rot began early on when MASSART gave Bury the lead after four minutes, but was stayed for a while by a brilliant goal from BRENNAN, who showed just what a great opportunist he is by the way in which he snapped up what would have seemed barely a chance to most players.

In fact when he picked up the ball outside the penalty area, it seemed scarcely possible that he could pick an avenue for a shot. He did though, and the ball sped unerringly, never more than a foot off the ground into the net with Bradshaw completely helpless.

That was one of the few bright spots achieved by the Town attack and even that was very much a one man effort.

Still, the goal did rally the Town, and for a long time afterwards, though not having so much of the play as Bury gained with their big kicks and quick following up, they yet gave the feeling that they might still be in the hunt at the end.

What seemed to take much of the fight out of them was the rather fortunate second goal that fell to Bury when Streten went down to a free kick from Bodle, but could not hold the greasy ball, and WHITWORTH whipped it into the net.

DISALLOWED FOR OFFSIDE

After an early break through by Brennan in which he drove the ball into the net with a great deal of certainty, but was adjudged offside, the game became very much of a one-horse race.

Bury launched attack after attack, and with both their full-backs and wing halves plugging the ball hard downfield and mostly down the middle, there was not much rest for a harassed Town defence.

Chances for Bury went astray, but the main reason that they did not increase their lead until three minutes from the end when MASSART scored again, was the brilliance of Streten.

He saved shots from all sorts of angles and in all sorts of positions, and altogether gave a thrilling display which was properly recognised by the sporting home crowd at the end.

Apart from that, there was little about which the Town could have been pleased in the second half. They were completely out of the hunt, and when the forwards did get on the move, they were speedily driven back by a robust, hard-tackling defence.

There were weaknesses on the wings where O'Brien was not a success, and Small, often parting with the ball too soon, seldom got the better of Griffiths.

Kiernan had a poor day, and although Watkins did much foraging, the one really dangerous forward was Brennan, and he was simply starved of real opportunities.

True, the service from the middle line was not all it might have been, and Ruffett probably found the pace a shade too fast, though he fought pluckily. Owen was good in patches, and Hall found the bustling Massart more than he could cope with, especially as Bury early showed a liking for blazing a trail down the middle.

Both full-backs had their hands full, but both gave good service, especially Aherne, once he got the measure of Whitworth, who as becomes a converted wing-half, was apt to do the unexpected at times.

Cooke was not quite so close to Barclay as he should have been, but the answer might have been that he was keeping a wary eye on the middle. Anyway, both full-backs showed a good deal of resolution under pressure.

BURY. — Bradshaw; Fairclough, Griffiths (G.); Bardsley, Hart, Daniel; Whitworth, Hanlon, Massart, Bodle, Barclay.

LUTON TOWN. — Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Ruffett, Hall, Owen; Small, Kiernan, Brennan, Watkins, O'Brien.

Referee: H. Key, West Bromwich.