

Town's Luck Was Out Against Grimsby

By Chiltern

GRIMSBY TOWN ... 2 LUTON TOWN 1

LUTON came away from this compact ground at Cleethorpes on Tuesday firmly of the opinion that they should have gained at least a point, a view that was borne out by all the facts.

It was the sort of game in which all the breaks went against them and if honours had gone to the better footballing side then the town would have won easily.

Turning point in the game came in the 52nd minute, when Brennan hooked the ball into the net seemingly to equalise the scores at two each.

Immediately the referee pointed to the centre of the field, but while Brennan was being congratulated by his colleagues we saw a linesman standing with his flag held aloft.

As soon as they glimpsed this the Grimsby players clustered around the referee, who went over to the linesman, and after a few words with him reversed what had appeared to be a perfectly good decision, and gave Grimsby a free kick on the ground that Brennan was off-side.

TWO GOOD GOALS CLAIM

Came another disappointment for the town five minutes from the end when Burtenshaw poked out a leg to push in a centre from the left.

The ball struck a defender and spun over the bar, but the town players claimed stridently that the ball had crossed the line, and afterwards were adamant that both these incidents produced good goals.

Such is the luck in football, though, and there were few among the 14,000 spectators who did not deem Luton worthy of at least a point.

For sheer football Grimsby simply did not compare with them, and at a modest estimate Luton must have had 75 per cent of the second half play.

PUNCH LACKING

Trouble was apart from these unfortunate happenings that punch was again lacking at close quarters.

Everything went swimmingly until the penalty area was reached, and then when shots were needed usually came a pass, with the result that a stubborn Grimsby defence mostly came out best in close quarters work.

So far as football was concerned the Town gave an exhibition which earned them many friends.

There was brilliant footwork, precision passing, but few shots from the region of the edge of the penalty area.

In fact there was often just that little too much football which was in marked contrast to the somewhat slap happy methods of the Grimsby attack.

Both their goals followed free kicks, the first after an error by Duke, who came out beyond the penalty area to a loose ball. Instead of kicking it into touch, which would have been a simple matter, he tried to beat McStay and merely succeeded in pushing the ball to him.

THE THREE GOALS

In seeking to recover he fouled the winger. From the free-kick BRIGGS'S head beat Duke's hands and sent the ball into the net with Gardiner making an unsuccessful attempt to kick away. That was after 25 minutes.

Eight minutes later the Town were on level terms after a brilliant solo run by Taylor.

He beat two opponents before squaring the ball to BRENNAN who hooked it past Chisholm. Moody tried to kick away, but only helped the ball into the net.

With three minutes of the first half remaining, Grimsby were awarded a free kick for an alleged offence by Gardiner, who looked to be more sinned against than sinning.

Moody made the utmost use of the kick and CAIRNS, timing the ball beautifully, connected with his head and sent it into the net as Duke challenged.

In the second half it was mainly Luton on the attack with wing halves backing up and full backs usually on the centre line, but goals just would not come. All the bounces in the goalmouth seemed to go Grimsby's way and their raids were confined to breaks away.

They nearly increased their lead through Briggs, but Wilson was on the spot to head away a terrific drive.

Both teams fought as desperately as if points were absolutely vital.

DEFENCE PLAYED WELL

Once again the defence acquitted itself well with Owen an outstanding figure and Morton and Gardiner most successful wing halves.

Wilson was more consistent than Lake, who seemed to be worried by the bouncing of the ball on the bumpy ground after the interval, though he had a good first half.

Duke was not so certain as at Sheffield, and although he made some good saves, they were mistakes intermixed.

Outstanding forward on the field was Brennan, for there was no one else to match his ball control and cleverness in beating an opponent.

He and Taylor switched positions for long spells in each half, and the line looked more dangerous when Brennan was at inside-right.

NOT TOO STRONG

Taylor played another useful game, so did Watkins, who was always working and seeking to make openings. The wing work was not too strong. Burtenshaw was the more effective, and his centres carried more threat than those of O'Brien, who was inclined to come in on the inside of the full-back too often.

Teams:
GRIMSBY TOWN—Chisholm; Moody, Fisher, McStay, Lloyd, Briggs, Cairns, Hair.

Millan, Johnston; McStay, Lloyd, Briggs, Cairns, Hair.

LUTON TOWN—Duke; Wilson, Lake; Morton, Owen, Gardiner; Burtenshaw (C), Taylor, Brennan, Watkins, O'Brien.

Referee—J. G. Williams, Nottingham.