

Town And City Had Goal-Shy Attacks

By Chiltern

Luton Town 0 : Cardiff City 0

There are goalless draws and goalless draws, and this ranked as one of the least interesting of the species, for with defences so much on top, there were long spells of drab play, especially in the second-half.

It was the second time this season that these teams had played against each other and failed to score, and the longer this match lasted, the less likelihood there seemed of goals coming.

The Town should have made certain of a much-needed victory before the interval was reached, for they gained the upper hand to such an extent that the times when Cardiff threatened danger could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

Yet with so much of the play, the Town produced surprisingly few shots, and little went right for them at close quarters.

Near approaches to goal were when a terrific shot by Kiernan was deflected by Montgomery just enough to send the ball wide, and when Watkins saw his drive hit the bar and bounce over.

Sometimes brilliant in mid-field and showing more constructive ideas than the Cardiff forwards, the Town's

work broke down prematurely far more often than should have been the case, but there were sufficient openings for them to have been a couple of goals up at the interval.

The second half was a different story, with the Town forwards getting more and more into the grip of the sound City defence, and with the Cardiff forwards becoming more assertive.

BLAIR A DANGER

Only member of the City front line to worry the Town defence, though, was Blair, and he might easily have snatched the lead for his team, especially when he scraped the top of the bar with a grand shot.

Apart from one occasion when Stobbart broke through and then could not force the ball past the oncoming Joslin, the Town never gave real promise of going ahead in the second half, and the attack, as a whole, was thrown right out of gear by the hard, accurate tackling of the Cardiff defence.

Only satisfactory feature from the Town point of view was the showing of the defence, which kept a blank sheet for the second week in succession.

Outstanding men were Cooke, Owen and Aherne, and they formed a solid barrier which meant the end of many a Cardiff raid.

Owen blotted Evans out of the game, and Aherne, giving one of his best displays since joining the club, saw to it that Grant had little opportunity to display his speed and cleverness.

International wingers mean little to Cooke, who again held one without difficulty in Edwards, who has a host of Welsh caps to his credit.

LIGHT DAY FOR HUGHES

Behind them, Hughes had a light day, but was always ready to cope with anything that came his way, and revealed good anticipation and a safe pair of hands.

Watkins and Shanks were two hard-working wing halves, though the latter was not so successful as he was against Tottenham, and Watkins had one spell during which little went right, and he could not hold up Blair. Apart from that, though, he did his work efficiently.

The forwards were something of an enigma, for they did well enough in their approach work before the interval to have crowned it with goals.

Kiernan was the pick of the line during this period, when they played a far superior brand of football to that revealed by Cardiff, but the whole line lost its rhythm in the second half, when it was seldom a dangerous force.

Montgomery held Jinks, who was not so impressive as on his first appearance, and who was not a potential goal-scorer often in this match.

Stobbart did plenty of foraging and started some good movements, but did not find things going his way in the goalmouth.

Both wingers, Glover and Wyldes were disappointing. Neither made much impression on the opposing full-back, and Glover held up the attack too often. Wyldes had more direct ideas, but was not able to carry them out consistently, and he found Stitfall a big stumbling block.

LUTON TOWN: Hughes;
Cooke, Aherne; Watkins,
Owen, Shanks; Glover, Kiernan, Jinks, Stobbart, Wyldes.

CARDIFF CITY: Joslin;
Stitfall, Sherwood; Baker,
Montgomery, Hollyman; Grant,
McLaren, Evans, Blair, Edwards.
Referee: R. J. Burgess, Reading.
Attendance: 15,071.