

Last Match Brought A Comfortable Win

[By Chiltern]

LUTON TOWN 3 BRADFORD 1

If the Town did not exactly go out in a blaze of glory, they at least registered a deserved and fairly decisive victory, which meant that Bradford became the wooden-spoonists of the Second Division.

For the 11,242 spectators, the last glimpse of football for over three months was memorable mainly for the fact that, for once in a way, they saw the Town holding a commanding lead, which has not happened many times this season.

The Town were superior to the opportunities being strictly limited. rather ragged Bradford team who, although they had some moments of sparkle, were very inconsistent.

Only at the beginning of each half, and for a few minutes in the closing stages did the Bradford attack really move in workmanlike style.

Yet, they might very well have taken the lead early on in the game, for they seemed to settle down better than did the Town, and there was an extremely close call when Owen kicked off the goal-line after Hughes had been beaten by Horsman.

Gradually, though, the Town began to take a grip on things, and they well deserved to go ahead after 35 minutes when COOKE scored from the penalty spot after Kiernan, in a scoring position, had been brought down.

The incident was the culmination of a neat bit of work by Stobbart and Kiernan, who collaborated well throughout the match.

KIERNAN'S TRIUMPH

In fact, the game was by way of being a personal triumph for Kiernan, who revealed brilliant ball control and footwork, and was always a shade too clever for the Bradford defence.

He it was, who made the pass which enabled TAYLOR to sweep through the Bradford defence 15 minutes after the interval and plant the ball firmly past the oncoming Farr.

This goal was opportune because Bradford had looked dangerous in the opening exchanges after the interval, and that they were all out for an equaliser was proved by the fact that both Curry and Leuty were to be found in the Town goal-mouth on occasion.

Bradford fell away considerably after the reverse, and any hopes they may have had disappeared completely when a third goal arrived after 72 minutes.

This was credited to FARR, who turned the ball into his own net from an indirect free kick inside the penalty area taken by Glover.

They were not finished with altogether, though, and eight minutes from the end, SIRREL headed a picture goal from Smith's centre.

The Town's attack would have been more effective than it was had there been a better service from the wingers. Glover, against his former colleagues, did not have a good day, and Wyldes was not very successful either.

Most danger came from Kiernan and Stobbart, and the latter gave Leuty plenty to think about. He was not content to wait in the middle for the ball, but moved out to the wings and switched about quite often.

SUCCESS OF STOBART

In the last few weeks, Stobbart has been reproducing consistently the form which put him in the five-figure class, and he has been very successful since he returned to the centre-forward position.

Kiernan's display was his best this season, and he was most effective in everything he did.

As for Taylor, he had good and indifferent patches in turn, but he took his goal like an old hand.

Although the defence was without Aherne and Watkins, there was little wrong with the department, though, at times, the covering was not quite so good as usual.

Wilson had a fair game without approaching Aherne's recent standard, and Morton fitted in well, and played strongly throughout.

However, Shanks was the outstanding wing half and his quickness and strength in the tackle enabled him to come out with the ball more often than not.

Owen mostly held a grip on Horsman, who, as a result, found few scoring chances coming his way, and Owen's coolness under pressure got the Town out of several sticky situations.

Others were disposed of by Cooke, who was again very much master of the situation and his whole-hearted play led to Elliott's

Hughes was well beaten by Sirrel's header, but there were a couple of occasions when he could have been faulted, but generally, he showed good judgment and keep anticipation.

LUTON TOWN: Hughes; Cooke, Wilson; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Glover, Taylor, Stobbart, Kiernan, Wyldes.

BRADFORD: Farr; Currie, James; Suddards, Leuty, Deplidge; Smith, Sirrel, Horsman, Haines, Elliott.

Referee: R. J. Leafe, Nottingham.