

Bury Made Town Pay For Their Mistakes

By Chiltern

BURY 4 LUTON TOWN 1

Shortest route to relegation is to miss chances and then follow up that by making errors in defence which present gift goals to the opposition.

The Town did both at Gigg-lane, Bury, on Saturday, with the result that they were soundly beaten in a game from which they could well have rescued at least one point.

In matches such as this, in which both teams are struggling for precious points, the scoring of the first goal is a considerable factor and the Town had two distinct and easy chances of obtaining this advantage.

First to miss was Arnison, at close range, when he was left with only Goram to beat, and then came the tragedy of the penalty failure when Cooke shot wide from the spot after Fairclough had brought down Wyldes.

It was then that occurred the incident that caused so much discussion afterwards when Fairclough, after obtaining permission from the referee to leave the field, was allowed to stand near a goal post while the penalty was being taken.

Then, as so often happens when a team is prodigal with its scoring openings, the opposition took the lead. This time we saw a penalty converted expertly by GRIFFITHS (W), after Owen had been penalised for pushing.

TWO MISTAKES— TWO GOALS

This happened seven minutes from the interval and was quickly followed by another reverse when Cooke delayed a clearance, and Steele nipped in to leave PLANT with any easy chance.

Another defensive error brought the third goal 19 minutes after the resumption when a mis-kick by Owen left PLANT with another g'l-edged opportunity.

WYLDES made the situation look a little better from the Town point of view with a goal 14 minutes from time after Kiernan and Arnison had made the opening, but although Wyldes and Stobbart both went close, there was never any real hope of pulling the game out of the fire.

To make the result even more flattering from the Bury point of view, a speculative shot from HART found the corner of the net with a minute to go.

So far as the general play was

concerned, the Town usually showed the more constructive ability in midfield, but it all faded out when the penalty area was reached.

On the other hand, Bury showed, mostly through the opportunism of Plant, a readiness to snap up chances, and it was this that tipped the scales so far in their favour.

Their defence made mistakes too, but were not called upon to pay for them because the Town forwards were disappointing as a line, and only Stobbart hit his true form.

RIGHT WING WAS POOR

Glover and Kiernan had a particularly thin time, and little came from this wing. Both were caught repeatedly by the quick-tackling Bury defenders.

It would scarcely be fair to judge Arnison on this showing, for obviously he found the pace trying after his brief sample of reserve football, but there were some bright phases in his play. Most pleasing feature, though, was that his knee stood up to the job.

As for Wyldes, he showed his usual courage and willingness to forage, but he had not the best of support, and was closely marked by Fairclough.

Despite the four goals against them, the defence was the better looking part of the team, with the half-back line a strong formation.

Apart from the mistake that accounted for a goal, Owen had a great match, and he was flanked by two very able wing-halves in Morton, who looked as if he relished his return to his old position, and Watkins.

There was no more polished full-back on the field than Aherne, but Cooke, after a competent start, became most uncertain under pressure and was often in trouble.

No one could blame Hughes in the slightest, for he was left with no chance when the goals were scored.

BURY: Goram; Fairclough, Griffiths (G); Hart, Griffiths (W), Bardsley; Hazlett, J. A. Walton, Plant, Bodle, Steele.

LUTON TOWN: Hughes; Cooke, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Glover, Kiernan, Stobbart, Arnison, Wyldes.

Referee: R. J. Leafe, Nottingham.

Attendance: 13,486.