

The Drama Came In The Closing Minutes

By Chiltern

SHEFFIELD UTD. ... 2 LUTON TOWN 1

There was drama in the closing stages of a hard-fought match, but one that did not produce a lot of really skilful football at Bramall-lane on Saturday.

After holding out against heavy pressure for the greater part of the second half, the plucky, over-worked Town defence capitulated with only eight minutes remaining, and the United went ahead for the second time.

Only a matter of inches prevented that lead from being short-lived though, for three minutes later, the Town forwards made a great move which ended with Havenga being left with a chance to equalise.

From close in, he lifted the ball against the bar, and it came back into play to be scrambled away promptly by the anxious United defenders.

And so, the last chance of the Town maintaining their unbeaten run, drifted away, and with it the opportunity to snatch a badly-needed point.

Despite the fact that they had far less of the play after the interval than they had had in the first half, they might easily have gained that welcome addition to their points tally.

The Town claimed that there had been no offence when Shanks was penalised near the centre line, but from that unpromising position, the deciding goal developed.

After the ball had gone out to the right wing, Hitchen squared it into the goalmouth and **BOTTOM** did the rest with a first-time shot.

YOUNG LEADER SCORED BOTH

Bottom, 20-years-old centre forward also obtained the first goal after 22 minutes, which was equalised by a well-worked effort from **GLOVER**, who took a pass from Havenga, schemed his way into a shooting position and gave Burgin no chance.

Before the interval, the Town had an equal share of the play, but United were mostly on top afterwards, and they were deserved winners.

Even so, this was not their best form, for the forwards lacked cohesion and the defence, though quite effective, frequently gave the impression

that they were really struggling.

Both Owen and Aherne have been more successful many times this season and the former never seemed to settle down to his normal game, though both he and Aherne showed tremendous fighting spirit.

It was this quality as much as anything that enabled the Town to hang on for so long in the second half, that is, in addition to the brilliant work of Streten, who made a number of magnificent saves.

Wilson had quite a useful game, especially in the first half, but the best of the defence, apart from Streten, were Morton and Watkins, two hard-working and resourceful wing halves.

LITTLE PUNCH IN ATTACK

There was a lack of real cohesion and finishing power in the forward line, which yet had its moments and its chances.

On his general play, Stobbart was the best of the front line, for he led the line cleverly without consistently looking a potential goal-scorer.

Glover had a good day which could have been even better had he received more of the ball in the second half, and Davie, apart from a spell in which his passes would not go right, again showed constructive ideas.

However, Havenga, who had a real off day, did not respond in the way he has been doing, and the left wing was thus not so formidable as it might have been.

Covering a tremendous amount of ground, Shanks did much that was useful and often came back to help the defence when they were really in need of assistance.

On the whole, though, there was not a goal-getting look about the line, which did not shoot so readily as did the United whose marksmanship was often erratic in the extreme.

SHEFFIELD UNITED: Burgin; Furniss, Cox; Hitchen, Latham, Brook; Ringstead, Hawksworth, Bottom, Hagan, Jones.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Wilson, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Glover, Shanks, Stobbart, Davie, Havenga.

Referee: G. L. Iliffe, Leicester.
Attendance: 26,000.