

TOWN MISSED A BIG OPPORTUNITY

Failed To Impress The Season's Biggest Crowd

BY CHILTERN

DRAGEDY of the Town's failure against Bristol Rovers at Kenilworth-road last Saturday was contained not so much in the fact that it meant the end of their Cup interest for this season, but that they missed a unique opportunity of reclaiming as regulars quite a large number of supporters.

The stage was set for this since they had the biggest crowd for nearly two seasons, but they failed signally to grasp the chance and were fairly and squarely beaten by a team from a lower Division.

provided, too, was a clear indication of what the Town can expect if they fail in their fight to avoid relegation.

From the way the Rovers played, the Town can be assured that life in the Third Division is no sinecure and that the way will be strewn with all sorts of difficulties.

It is easy to be passive about defeat and say, "Now we will concentrate on the League Cup."

In some extent that is correct, but Manager Dally Duncan, instead of being disappointed by the result of the display, but, for all that, did not praise to the Rovers. He commented afterwards, "I should have liked to have got through to the next round and then I should have minded being beaten."

Rovers Faster And More Forceful

In this match, the Town were not even a pale shadow of the team that knocked out Portsmouth.

A near approach to that standard would have put them through. The truth was that they were never allowed to settle down to a sort of football they wanted to play.

The Rovers were the faster, more assertive and certainly the more forceful side. Perhaps, the Town were lulled into a sense of security by the happenings

in the early minutes which certainly gave rise to the thought that they would get over this hurdle.

Things Looked Rosy At The Start

WHEN Davie hit the bar with Hoyle right out of position and this was followed in the thirteenth minute by a goal by Watkins, things looked rosy for the Town.

Could they have taken a grip when once they had gone ahead, everything could have been well, but, instead, they found themselves facing an all-out blitz in which the Rovers simply threw everything in.

That the lead was maintained until 15 minutes from the interval was largely due to the brilliance of Stretton whose displays recently must be putting him back as a contender for International honours again.

Defence Troubled By First-Time Play

BY fast, forthright, first-time play, the Rovers caused a tremendous amount of trouble to a faltering Town defence and no one was really surprised when the equaliser came.

Stretton was unlucky in this instance, for he came yards out of his goal to block a shot by Roost,

who had cleaved a way through the defence.

The ball might have rebounded anywhere, but unfortunately it went to Lambden, who accepted the chance in the coolest possible manner, with the Town defenders scuttling back towards goal in an effort to retrieve the situation.

Could Not Produce Bad Luck As Alibi

THERE were a couple of close calls at the Town end, countered by a header from Davie which shaved the foot of the post.

The Town could claim that they were unlucky not to have a penalty when Stobbs was charged hard in the back, but they could not call upon misfortune as an alibi in this match.

At half-time, with the score still 1-1, the Town's prospects did not look any too good, and they took a distinct turn for the worse when Petherbridge put the Rovers ahead nine minutes after the resumption.

A brilliantly taken goal this, for he rounded both Owen and Aherne before driving the ball past the on-coming Stretton.

Town Rallied After A Ragged Spell

FOR a long time, the Town were ragged and just could not mount anything that looked like bringing an equaliser.

Not until 20 minutes from the end did they really launch anything that seemed likely to save the game and then the Rovers pulled everything back to concentrate on defence.

Not always a good policy this, and for some minutes the Rovers were rattled for about the only time in the game.

A daring save by Hoyle prevented Davie from scoring, at the cost of a hard knock on the face and then Owen, Davie and Lambden all went down in a heap after going up together for a high centre.

Rovers Suited Their Tactics To The Day

THE ball went goalwards, beat Hoyle, but Pitt had dropped back and kicked off the line.

The Town's rally was not sustained, though, and minutes before the end, their hopes of even living to fight a replay had faded into nothingness.

Give the Rovers full credit for the way they suited their tactics to the day and conditions.

They kept the ball on the move all the time, seldom used the short pass and some of their long passing was extremely accurate and decidedly unsettling to the Town defence.

Those high-down-the-middle passes were always dangerous especially when Lambden and Roost were about, as they usually were.

Got On With The Job Without Wasting Time

WHAT was just as important was that the Rovers moved the ball forward and made ground without waste of time.

By comparison, the Town played too much "sideways" football, and it took them far too long to make ground against a determined hard-tackling, good-covering defence.

Few attempts were made to open out the play and there were too many cases of players running with the ball when a well-judged pass would have saved energy and trouble and been far more effective.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Newcastle Utd.
Aston Villa v Blackpool
Burnley v West Brom
Chelsea v Stoke C.
Derby C. v Bolton W.
Liverpool v Fulham
Manchester U. v Middlesbrough
Portsmouth v Everton
Sheffield W. v Huddersfield T.
Sunderland v Tottenham H.
Wolves v Charlton Ath.

DIVISION II

Bury v Grimsby T.
Chesterfield v Cardiff C.
Doncaster R. v Brentford
Hull C. v Blackburn R.
Leeds Utd. v Sheffield Utd.
Leicester C. v Coventry C.
Luton T. v Manchester C.
Preston N.E. v Notts C.
Q.P.R. v Birmingham C.
Swansea T. v Southampton
West Ham v Barnsley

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Ipswich T.
Brighton v Crystal Palace
Bristol C. v Walsall
Exeter C. v Plymouth A.
Gillingham v Leyton O.
Millwall v Watford
Newport C. v Bristol R.
Northampton T. v Swindon T.
Norwich C. v Colchester Utd.
Nottm. Forest v Torquay Utd.
Port Vale v Aldershot
Southend Utd. v Reading

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Bradford v Tranmere R.

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 1
(Watkins).
BRISTOL ROVERS 2
(Lambden, Petherbridge).
LUTON TOWN: Stretton;
Cooke, Aherne; Morton;
Owen, Watkins; Glover,
Shanks, Stobbs, Davie,
Wylde.
BRISTOL ROVERS:
Hoyle; Bamford, Fox; Pitt,
Warren, Sampson; Pether-
bridge, Bradford, Lambden,
Roost, Watling.
Referee: R. J. Burgess,
Reading.
Attendance: 26,582 (Record
for a Cup-tie). Receipts:
£3,100.

Town Defence Was Very Rattled

ROVERS' tactics were particularly suited to a Cup-tie, whereas the Town tried to play their normal game and found that they were simply not allowed to by a team which came in to meet the ball every time.

Surprising thing was that the defence became rattled early on and never really recovered to show the usual solid front.

Rovers had them chasing all over the place with Owen having the unenviable task of trying to plug up holes that appeared.

The centre half had a harassing and not entirely successful time as a result and he was even beaten in the air at times.

Big Factors In Rovers' Attack

THE craft of Petherbridge on whom Aherne never obtained a grip and the dash and enthusiasm of Roost were big factors in the Rovers' attack, apart from the smart leadership of Lambden.

Petherbridge beat Aherne with much regularity and surprising ease and this was one hole that was never effectively plugged.

On the other flank, Cooke did not tackle with his customary accuracy and force and his kicking was not of the best either, while in front of him, Morton failed to keep tabs on Roost, who was liable to pop up almost anywhere.

Greyhounds

Two Traps Shared The Main Honours At Luton

Inside and outside traps, 1 and 6, provided most of the winners at Luton Stadium on Saturday when blanks were drawn by numbers 3 and 4.

I (410yds).—1 LITTLE SALLY (6).
2 Carpenter (5). 3 Desert Rat (1). 4 Little Rio (4). 5 Beau Geste (2). 6 Trev's Lady (3). Hd. 2. 4. 3. dist. 25.34. Off 6.38.
Betting: 2 LITTLE SALLY, 4 Carpenter, Little Rio, Trev's Lady, 5 Beau Geste, 10 Desert Rat. Forecast 18/9.
II (470yds).—1 JACK MACK (5). and GEM CUTTERS (6) dead-heat, 3 Hair Clip (3). 4 Dark Weather (2). 5 Marcus (1). Salad (4). 4. 3. 4. 4. 29.14. Off 6.58.
Betting: 3 JACK MACK, Salad, Hair Clip, 6 GEM CUTTERS, 7 Dark Weather, 10 Marcus. Forecast £1/15/6 and £1/12/6.
III (410yds).—1 BLACK BEAUTY (2). 2 Ashwood (3). 3 Fascination (2). 4 No Limit (6). 5 Mr. Woo (5). 6 Win's Boy (4). 4. 3. 2. 1. 3. 25.56. Off 7.19.
Betting: 9-4 Mr. Woo, 7-2 BLACK BEAUTY, Ashwood, 4 Win's Boy, 5 No Limit, 8 Fascination. Forecast £1/12/9.
IV (410yds).—1 PANDA (6). 2 Judge

(5). 6 Glen Mist (2). 5. 4. 5. 1. 1. 25.03. Off 7.38.
Betting: 5-4 PANDA, 7-2 Judge, 4 Biro, 5 Glen Mist, 7 Idle Wish, 10 Juno. Forecast 14/9.
V (470yds).—1 ENGAGED (2). 2 Etherley Time (4). 3 Malcolm (5). 4 Port Barn (6). 5 Black Mask (3). 6 Rosy Apple (1). 1. 7. 10. 1. dist. 28.22. Off 7.57.
Betting: 9-4 Etherley Time, 3 ENGAGED, Black Mask, 6 Rosy Apple, Malcolm, 10 Port Barn. Forecast 18/9.
VI (410yds).—1 RED TED (1). 2 Sweet Sue (5). 3 Tracker (6). 4 Glen- gl (4). 5 Cork Tip (2). 6 Fate's Style (3). 10. 4. 2. 1. 24.73. Off 8.17.
Betting: 5-2 RED TED, Sweet Sue, 5 Tracker, Glen- gl, Fate's Style, 100-8 Cork Tip. Forecast 16/9.
VII (470yds).—1 CLANCY (5). 2 Toby Gay (1). 3 Snuff (2) reserve, 4 Margaret's Pal (3). 5 McGrane's Wish (6). Whistling Wind (4) d.n.f. 4. 4. 3. 1. F. 28.55. Off 8.36.
Betting: 9-4 McGrane's Wish, 3 CLANCY, Snuff, 6 Toby Gay, 7 Margaret's Pal, 10 Whistling Wind. Forecast £4/8/6.
VIII (410yds).—1 MAGPIE (1). 2 Big Game (2). 3 City Lights (4). 4 Chimes (6). 5 Mischief (3) reserve, 6 Donny (5). 3. 1. 2. 3. dist. 25.24. Non- runner, Marigold (3). Off 8.54.
Betting: 4-5 Chimes, 4 MAGPIE, 5 City Lights, 6 Big Game, 8 Donny, 10 Mischief. Forecast £4/4/9.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR TO-MORROW

7.30 (410yds).—54 Charmaine, 334 Halfway, 442 Lazy Lofer, 424 Mishy Atom, 655 Neapolitan, 655 The Ace.
7.48 (470yds).—162 Cherry Brandy, 666 Dusty, 325 Eastern Silver, 442 Ella's Joy, 435 Max Future, 453 Smartly Girl.
8.06 (410yds).—2 Hillside, Kitty Wee (Jan 15, to 4, 25.00, Jan 17, to 2, 24.85), 466 Lone Rider, 166 Meg's Pet, 666 Mischief, 223 Playboy.
8.24 (470yds).—425 Alderman, 113 Brookside, 455 Destiny, 215 Egg Flip, 546 Handy Bill, 331 Wild Honey, Reserve, 544 Curly O'Connor.
8.42 (470yds).—154 Blue Lamp, 213 Margaret's Luck, 411 Marvex, 131 Petty Officer, 242 Rockafella, 321 Sam's Song, Reserve, 232 Johnny D.
9.0 (410yds).—651 Black Satin, 146 Chief Officer, 122 Gourmet, 542 Partion, 645 Robin, 431 Tony.
9.18 (470yds).—514 Black Cutler, 333 Charmante, 436 Laughing Girl, 251 Mofet's Money, 421 Molly, 615 Pat's Dislike, Reserve, 555 Broadwood.
9.36 (410yds).—662 Local Lad, 144 Our Alice, 321 Popoff, 554 Referee, 111 Speakeasy, 631 Wind-Break, Reserve, 141 City Lights.

SELECTIONS

7.30 Charmaine (The Ace, Half-Way)
7.48 Dusty (Eastern Silver, Smartly Girl)
8.06 Mischief (Playboy, Meg's Pet)
8.24 Egg Flip (Wild Honey, Handy Bill)
8.42 Margaret's Luck (Sam's Song, Rockafella)
9.00 Tony (nap) (Chief Officer, Black Satin)
9.18 Pat's Dislike (Molly, Mofet's Money)
9.36 Referee (Our Alice, Popoff)



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