

TEN MEN GAINED TOWN'S ONLY HOLIDAY POINTS

An amazing second-half display, after being reduced to ten men through an injury to Aherne, enabled the Town to collect their only points of the holidays against Doncaster Rovers on Monday.

It seemed as if misfortune inspired the Town to even greater efforts, for their four-forward attack scored three times and a gallant, never-say-die defence kept out the Rovers until the game was safely won.

This tremendous victory won against all the odds, kept the Town's chance of escaping relegation alive, for defeat in this match, to follow the failures at Doncaster and Leicester on Friday and Saturday, would have been a sad turn indeed.

Only sheer bad luck prevented them from holding a substantial lead at the interval, for they buckled down to this most serious task in workmanlike style and before a quarter of an hour had gone, both Stobbart and Davie had narrowly missed scoring with shots that struck the woodwork.

Then, with the tide going in the Town's favour, and goals looking only a question of time, Aherne pulled a muscle shortly before half-time. He carried on for a short spell and then had to have attention from the trainer.

After that, he switched places with Pemberton, who was making his home League debut in the unfamiliar role of outside left.

The change took him to left back, the position in which he began his career and he played a courageous and most effective part in the Town's second half struggle.

At half-time, it was learned that Aherne's injury was so serious that he would not be able to resume, and there was dismay among the crowd of 14,486 when they saw that only 10 Town players had taken the field.

They need not have worried, for within three minutes the Town were ahead being given the lead from the penalty spot by DAVIE, who beat Hardwick after Graham had pulled down Taylor.

The second half was only 12 minutes old when the Town increased their lead. Taylor came through to make an opening for MOORE who hit the ball first time as Bycroft went in to tackle and flashed the ball past Hardwick.

After that, the Town saw to it that their lead was never in dire danger of being whittled away, and STOBART capped a fine display five minutes from the end by diving to head through with tremendous force a fast centre by Moore.

KNOCKED OUT IN SCORING

Stobbart was knocked out in doing so, and there was a hold-up before he recovered. He received a great reception from the crowd as he ran back for the restart.

Two minutes later, Doncaster got a consolation goal, though it would not be much consolation to them after being almost run off their feet by 10 men.

TINDILL was the scorer, with a low, close-range shot during a scramble following a corner.

This was a superlative performance by the Town and there was not a player who did not make the fullest contribution to it.

Watkins and Shanks were always in the thick of it, tackling hard, recovering quickly when beaten, and repeatedly getting the ball out of the danger zone.

In the middle, Owen was equally determined and kept very cool under pressure. The wanderings of Harrison did not worry him a lot and he closed the path down the middle effectively.

Just the man for a situation of this kind is Cooke, who was seldom in any sort of trouble, marked his wing man closely and kicked a good length throughout.

Pemberton did much that was useful during his spell on the wing, but it was at left-back that he really shone with a great-hearted display. All of which added up to the fact that Stretten did not have half as much to do as he probably expected to come his way when he started the second half. What there was,

though, he coped with confidently. In the first half, the forwards moved more quickly and were far more incisive than they have been in recent matches, and it was amazing that the depleted line could cause so much damage in the second half.

Davie, despite an injury, never spared himself for an instant and was constantly playing a leading part in the Town's raids and getting back, too, when they broke down.

So was Taylor, who stood out for the quality of his distribution of the ball, particularly with passes inside the full-back to Stobbart, who was the most dangerous winger on view and constantly harassed the Rovers' defence.

Moore had a good match, too, linking up with his colleagues effectively and giving Bycroft a very trying afternoon.

Five Goals Conceded

The previous meeting of the teams at Doncaster on Friday did not go so well for the Town, who were beaten 5-2, and that represented a discouraging start to a difficult holiday programme.

There was a time when it looked as if the Town might gain some reward, for playing against the wind in the first half they held the Rovers to one goal scored in the fifth minute by TINDILL.

Although the Town were not well together and were constantly worried by the switching of the home forwards, they gave every sign of being in a position to hit back after the interval.

What was probably the turning point of the match came two minutes from half-time, when LAYLOR rounded Owen and beat Stretten, who had left his goal, with a shot that just scraped the under-part of the bar.

To face the task of pulling back two goals was not a particularly happy outlook, but there was the fact that the wind would help the Town.

This did not prove to be the case early on, for Rovers scored twice in five minutes through TINDILL and HARRISON and not until that happened did the Town really reach top gear.

With 24 minutes left, MOORE opened the Town's account with a low shot from Gardiner's corner and eight minutes later DAVIE produced what could have been a very interesting situation by converting a penalty for a foul on Stobbart.

WORRY FOR DONCASTER

Doncaster's defence had a worrying time after that with the Town in full cry for another goal which would have brought them within striking distance of the Rovers.

It did not come though, and a quick breakaway six minutes from the end brought a fifth goal to the home side through HARRISON.

There were weaknesses in the Town defence and the mistakes proved costly, for Doncaster were quick to snap up their chances, even though their finishing was not impressive in the first half when they had the greater share of the play.

Both Morton and McAuley were disappointing, though the latter gained marks for the quality of his distribution of the ball.

Owen failed to get a real grip on things and Stretten was not so safe and sure as is usual. Aherne was effective in a quiet way, but chief defensive honours went to Cooke, who caught the eye by his excellent use of the ball.

The forwards did not carry

The Results

FRIDAY	
DONCASTER RVRS.	5
Tindill (2), Harrison (2), Lawlor	
LUTON TOWN	2
Moore, Davie (pen.)	
SATURDAY	
LEICESTER CITY	3
Rowley (2), Hines	
LUTON TOWN	1
Stobbart	
MONDAY	
LUTON TOWN	3
Davie (pen.), Moore, Stobbart	
DONCASTER RVRS.	1
Tindill	

much threat until the second half and then most of it came from Stobbart who was given plenty of the ball and caused the Rovers' defence the bulk of the anxiety that came their way.

Watkins improved after a moderate first half, and Davie, who had been ill overnight, was in quiet mood, while Gardiner was not a success on the wing.

Seldom able to escape the grip of Bycroft, Moore had few chances and the team as a whole was well below the form they showed against Bury the previous Saturday.

No Power In Finishing

The following day at Leicester the Town suffered a similar experience to the one that had come their way at Doncaster.

They were a goal down in the early minutes—only four had gone this time when HINES, with the Town defence out of position, headed through to give the City the lead.

Difference between the two occasions was that this time the Town had the wind at their backs in the first half, but they failed to make use of this advantage.

Although it enabled them to enjoy a considerable territorial advantage and keep the City in their own half for long periods, they simply could not score.

Either hesitancy proved fatal against the quick-tackling City defenders, or the shots were well wide of the target.

When a breakaway on the left produced another goal for the City through a cracking drive by ROWLEY nine minutes before half-time, the City looked to be all set for a big victory.

DID WELL AGAINST THE WIND

That did not develop because the Town played better against the wind than had the City before the interval and contrived to have a large share of the play.

Good midfield football still failed to produce concrete results though and it was the City who increased their lead through ROWLEY who headed through a centre by Hines 15 minutes from the end.

Not that the Town finished the match without gaining some distinction, for when STOBART snapped up a chance following a mistake by Anderson four minutes later, that was the end of the City's hopes of extending the number of successive home League matches without conceding a goal, to seven.

Without looking to be built on absolutely solid foundations, the defence was more secure than at Doncaster, and main threat came from the near two centre-forwards' plan of Hines and Rowley.

Owen was set a problem in having to face both, and considering everything, he came through creditably.

LITTLE SUPPORT FOR WINGERS

So did Cooke and Aherne who did well to keep Griffiths and Adam reasonably subdued, though the City themselves contributed to this by not making sufficient use of them as spearheads.

Watkins had quite a good game on his return to the middle line and McAuley shone when he was able to give full rein to his attacking powers, but his defensive work was not up to the same standard.

Stretten did all that could be expected of him and could not be blamed for the goals.

Had the forwards' finishing been anything like as deadly as their approach work was clever, the Town would have had at least a share of the points.

This was their failing, for they contrived to work out openings so far and then could not round them off with accurate shooting.

Once again, the right wing was the better balanced with Taylor making a most successful return to the team and linking up well with Stobbart, who was a hand-out for Jackson.

Only blot on the winger's display was that his finishing was rather inconsistent, but he was a constant source of danger.

Moore was closely watched by McAthur, but Davie's constructive skill in midfield stood out. Wyldes had a very moderate sort of match and seldom got the better of Lever.