

THE TOWN HAVE SHED THE LOAD

Point From City Leaves Them With No Worries

By Chiltern

Thanks to a run of success which has brought them seven points out of the last eight, the Town can contemplate the closing stages of the season with the load of anxiety which they have carried for the greater part of this season taken off their shoulders. They can contemplate now another season in the Second Division, for even if they do not gain another point from their remaining three matches, it is virtually impossible for either Chesterfield or Grimsby to equal their goal average.

After weeks of doubt, we now say that the battle is over in gaining their first point from a meeting with the Town reached

they were rather unlucky that they did not gain their fourth point from the Town, for they were promoted - seeking promotion in the finer points of

the City officials saying quite openly that they considered themselves lucky to be away with half the spoils.

It Was A Really Tough Battle

This was a really tough battle, producing over-whelmingly in the tackling and one or two passages which led to more drastic action by

this was the sort of match which no quarter was asked and none was given, and the game was kept up surprisingly well to finish.

Only in the last 15 minutes was there any slackening off and, presumably, the ball had been moved about in a style which was somewhat bewilderingly fast.

Firely Ball Did Not Help The Finishing

Of course, the change in the going helped the mobility of play and for the first time in many weeks, we saw the ball moving about in lively style at the end of the match.

Certainly, it was a change which

the Town players appreciated after the number of matches they have played with mud clinging around their feet, but the light ball did not aid the finishing.

Many shots went off the mark, mainly because they had too much elevation, but the Town forwards earn credit for the fact that they had probably twice as many shots at goal than did the City.

Flashing Drive By Pemberton

BEST of them of course, was that great drive by Pemberton that counted as the first goal with the game only six minutes old.

No goalkeeper would have stood much chance of saving that, for the ball simply flashed into the net after Pemberton hit it on the volley.

Had the Town really been able to cash in on their first-half superiority when the forwards moved with precision and speed in midfield, they would have held a comfortable lead at half-time.

A combination of fine goalkeeping by Merrick and some inaccuracy in the shooting enabled Birmingham to keep in the game with a chance.

Warhurst Snapped A Chance Quickly

THEY did more than that, for they reached level terms after 22 minutes when the ball went to Warhurst from a rebound from Cooke's clearance, and the outside-left took a leaf out of

Pemberton's book by crashing the ball through.

Streten had no chance, despite his quick leap, for the ball entered the net near the angle of post and bar.

It was a grand first half with plenty of excitement and with the Town looking more threatening in attack and reaching shooting range more often than Birmingham's forwards.

Relentless Work By The Defences

THE second half did not reach the same standard, possibly because an extra note of grimness crept into the play and a remarkably high number of attacks by both teams was broken up without a shot being produced.

Such an ascendancy did two hard-tackling defences obtain that further goals seemed rather remote.

Yet, chances did crop up. One was made brilliantly by Taylor who came through with the ball at his feet for 30 yards in the course of which he eluded two opponents, but again Merrick was there to push the ball around the post from the inside-right's hard shot.

City Still Rely Much On Their Defence

HAD Birmingham snatched a winner, there would have been a grave miscarriage of justice, but very often in the past, their strong defence has beaten off raids and they have picked up points from breakaway by their forwards.

Though their style of play has been modified a little since they last won promotion and there is more emphasis on attack, the fundamentals are still the same and the City place a great deal of reliance on the soundness of their defence.

City Might Have Snatched Winner

TWICE, late in the game, that snatched goal nearly came to Birmingham, first when Streten made a point-blank save from Rowley, and Warhurst's shot from the rebound, scraped the top of the bar, and then when Trigg was only inches too high with a fast shot.

In the main though, these repre-

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 1

(Pemberton)

BIRMINGHAM CITY 1

(Warhurst)

LUTON TOWN—Streten; Cooke, Lake; Watkins, Owen, Moore, Davie, Pemberton. BIRMINGHAM CITY—Merrick; Green, Badham; Dorman, Atkins, Ferris; Berry, Higgins, Trigg, Rowley, Warhurst. Referee—R J Burgess, Reading. Attendance—16,324.

sented the only serious threats to the Town in the second half and they never looked as if they would be beaten. Yet, although there were more close calls at the Birmingham end, a decider did not seem likely and, in fact, the second half was largely stalemate because of the grip taken by defences.

Hard Tackling By Shanks And Watkins

THE Town were strong and forthright in this department, particularly in the half-back line.

Tremendously hard tackling from Watkins and Shanks was the outstanding feature, and Shanks had a great game which just about qualified him for the title of "man of the match."

Not only did he get through his own work with complete success, but he afforded some cover, too, for Lake, especially in the first half when the left-back found Berry extremely troublesome.

Lake was guilty of some errors of judgement, but although he has not been an unqualified success in any of the three recent matches in which he has played, the fact remains that the Town have conceded only one goal since he came into the team.

Trigg Well Held By Owen

HE played with rather more assurance in the second half and, in his favour, it must be said that he was opposed to the most accomplished Birmingham forward.

Watkins, too, played his role well and attack after attack was broken up by strong wing-half play.

Then there was Owen, in his best form against his former club and not only blocking the way down the middle, but giving Trigg little opportunity to add to his tally of goals.

Cooke was as rugged as ever and usually too good for Warhurst, while Streten again dealt with what came his way in fine style.

Birmingham Owed Much To Merrick

HIS task was by no means as difficult as that faced by Merrick, to whom Birmingham owed a big debt of gratitude in this match.

His anticipation was brilliant and he got the City defence out of several sticky situations.

There was quickness of movement and accuracy from the forwards, especially in the first half when there was a good deal of intelligent switching and use of the open spaces.

Again, the right wing was a forthright partnership with Stobbart battling away and receiving good support from Taylor, who was again well up in the honours list.

Great Fighting Spirit Of The Town

MUCH clever work was contributed by Davie, who began many movements, and Moore again switched out of the middle often, but spoilt the effect in the first half by trying to shoot at goal from near-impossible angles.

He was opposed to a sturdy, sound centre-half in Atkins, but he always needed close watching.

Then there was Pemberton, not the complete answer at outside-left, but getting the ball across capably, scoring again, and fighting and chasing for everything.

In fact, there was tremendous fighting spirit about this Town team, and this attribute has had much to do with them getting clear of the relegation trouble.

Good Performance By Reserves

TO take a point from Leicester, who included such experienced players as the Welsh International outside-right, Griffiths, Barlow, Wilson and McGregor, was a good performance by the Town Reserves, who fielded four players who have been mostly in the "A" team this season.

However, they were full value for their point and the outstanding feature was the quality of the play of the right-wing triangle, McAuley, Glover and Morton.

McAuley stood out with his pinpointed passes and Glover's cleverness was always a worry to Leicester.

Morton shaped well at inside-right, too, and scored one of the goals. The other came from Arthur Taylor, who kept up his scoring record.

The defence played well, with Hughes in great form and Smith again taking the eye.

Against two experienced wingers, the young full-backs, Jones and Dunne, came through most creditably.

Two Traps Started Seven Winners At Luton

Traps number 1 and 4 provided seven of the eight winners between them at Luton Stadium on Saturday. Trap 1 started three, and number 4, four.

I (410yds)—1. MAX FUTURE (1); 2. Jassy (6); 3. Nina (3); 4. Black Cutlet (2); 5. Brown Bomber (4); 6. Duke (5). 2, 4, 3, 7. distance. 24.58. Off 6.36.

Betting: 2-1 MAX FUTURE, 3-1 Nina, 7-2 Black Cutlet, Jassy, 9-2 Brown Bomber, 7-1 Duke.

Forecast: £1/16/3. II (470yds)—1. HAIR CLIP (4); 2. Gypo (1); House Warmer (5) dead-heat; 4. Waistcoat (6); 5. Mary Jane (2); 6. Mofet's Mony (3). 2, 3, 2, 1. 28.35. Off 6.57.

Betting: 6-4 Mofet's Mony, 9-4 Waistcoat, 3-1 Gypo, 8-1 Mary Jane, 10-1 HAIR CLIP, House Warmer.

Forecasts: £4/13/9, £2/14/3. III (410yds)—1. KATH (4); 2. Harvest King (1); 3. Cork Tip (2); 4. Care (6); 5. Malcolm (5); 6. Determination (3). Hd. 5, 3, 2, 3. 24.26. Off 7.16.

Betting: 6-4 KATH, 9-4 Harvest King, 3-1 Malcolm, 6-1 Cork Tip, 8-1 Care, Determination, Forecast: 14/3.

IV (470yds)—1. CUDDLES (4); 2. Rockafella (1); 3. Toby Gay (2); 4. Carol (5); 5. Step Lightly (3); 6. McGrane's Wish (6). 13, 13, 4, 3, 1. 27.95. Off 7.36.

Betting: 2-1 Carol, 7-2 CUDDLES, 9-4 Step Lightly, 5-1 Rockafella, 6-1 Toby Gay, 7-1 McGrane's Wish.

Forecast: £7/4/3. V (410yds)—1. BROKEN HEARTED (3); 2. King's Fare (5); 3. Leopoldina (6); 4. So Jolly (2); 5. Much Melody (1); 6. Referee (4). 2, 2, 1, 3, 7. 24.18. Off 7.57.

Betting: 6-4 Much Melody, 9-4 BROKEN HEARTED, 4-1 King's Fare, 6-1 Referee, 7-1 Leopoldina, 8-1 So Jolly. Forecast: £2/18/7.

VI (470yds)—1. FATES STYLE (4); 2. Engaged (3); 3. Margaret's Luck (5); 4. Castle Rock (1); 5. Moody Girl (6); 6. Bandbox (2). 13, 5, 3, 3, 6. 27.73. Off 8.17.

Betting: 6-4 Margaret's Luck, 3-1 FATES STYLE, 7-2 Engaged, 5-1 Bandbox, 6-1 Moody Girl, 8-1 Castle Rock. Forecast: £1/7/3.

VII (470yds)—1. RECORDER (1); 2. Terry's Pal (3) (reserve); 3. Mischief (5); 4. Mac Silver (6); 5. Maggie (4); 21, 5, 2, 2, 27.98. Non-runners: Egg Flip (2), Chummy's Lass (3). Off 8.37.

Betting: 6-4 RECORDER, 5-2 Terry's Pal, 9-2 Maggie, 3-1 Mischief, 4-1 Mac Silver. Forecast: 10/9.

VIII (410yds)—1. EMERY (1); 2. Hillside (6); 3. Speakeasy (5); 4. Black Mask (2) (reserve); 5. Little Sally (3); 6. Win's Boy (4). 13, hd, 2, 1, 2. 24.72. Non-runner: Judge (2). Off 8.57.

Betting: 7-4 Little Sally, 5-2 Black Mask, 4-1 EMERY, Hillside, Speakeasy, 5-1 Win's Boy, £4/0/3. Forecast: 10/9.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR WEDNESDAY

7.30—(410yds) 426 Cigar Joe, 662 Glen Mist, 563 Pat's Dishie, 455 Snuff, 535 The Ace, £46 Whistling Wind, Reserve, 655 Shy Girl.

7.48—(470yds) 412 Carpenter, 352 Cherry Brandy, 526 Fascination, 434 Home James, 532 Ian's Pet, 351 Youma, Reserve, 335 Squatter.

8.06—(410yds) 62 Adrian, 544 Coachman, 663 Donny, 133 Mighty Atom, 633 Neapolitan, 322 Wilfred, Reserve, 643 Blue Dawn.

8.24—(470yds) 311 Ginger, 551 Gourmet, 4 Reculvers, 3 Red Per, 362 Sam's Song, 414 Wild Honey, Reserve, 351 Miss Primrose.

8.42—(675yds) 41 Classical, 412 Darkie's Delight, 143 Marvex, 411 Moody Girl, 222 Peppy, 334 So Jolly.

9.0—(470yds) 341 Chief Officer, 5 Golden Casket, 6 Jay, 441 Part-

ton, 541 Tracker, 165 Wally's Pup.

9.18—(470yds) 124 Brookside, 543 Cinders, 556 Curly O'Connor, 256 Golden Times, 2 Miss Dimple, 15 Suzanne (April 11, tp 3, 24.93).

9.36—(410yds) 116 Biro, 415 Charmaine, 535 Clancy, 113 Dainty Piece, Dyb (April 5, tp 3, 24.89; April 7, tp 2, 24.61), 211 Lone Eagle, Reserve, 454 Meg's Pet.

SELECTIONS—7.30. Cigar Joe (nap) (The Ace. Snuff).

7.48. Cherry Brandy (Ian's Pet. Carpenter).

8.06. Adrian (Mighty Atom, Donny).

8.24. Red Peg (Ginger, Reculvers).

8.42. So Jolly (Marvex, Classical).

9.0. Wally's Pup (Chief Officer, Jay).

9.18. Brookside (Golden Times, Cinders).

9.36. Clancy (Charmaine, Biro).

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Torquay Utd.

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v Halifax T. Barrow v Lincoln C. Bradford v Crewe Alex. Carlisle Utd. v Stockport C. Mansfield T. v Chester Oldham Ath. v New Brighton Rotherham Utd. v Shrewsbury T. Scunthorpe Utd. v Rochdale Southport v Hartlepool Utd. Tranmere R. v Gateshead Wrexham v Bradford C. York C. v Darlington.

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

Moherwell v Celtic

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Hearts v Rangers Morton v Clyde Partick T. v Hibernian

DIVISION "B"

Albion R. v Ayr Utd. Cowdenbeath v Forfar Ath. Hamilton v Alloa Queen of South v Stirling A. Stenhousemuir v Queen's Park St. Johnstone v Arbroath

SELECTIONS—TEN HOME.—Arsenal, Huddersfield, Portsmouth, Birmingham, Manchester C., Notts C., Millwall, Reading, Mansfield Rotherham.

FOUR AWAY.—Blackpool, West Ham, Bristol R., Lincoln

THREE DRAWS.—Everton v Aston Villa, Bury v Doncaster, Leyton v Brighton.



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