

Below-Form Town Fell At The Nottingham Hurdle

(By Chiltern)

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 2 LUTON TOWN 0

No team can hope to go on avoiding defeat away from home indefinitely and the Town, after doing so on five consecutive occasions, fell at the sixth hurdle when they were beaten fairly and squarely by the Forest at Nottingham.

Yet, on paper, the Town were credited with as good a chance in this match as in any of the previous five, especially as injuries had caused a re-grouping and a re-shuffling of the Forest team to the extent of seven changes in all.

Truth was, though, that the Town were only a shadow of the team that has secured such grand previous results, and the Forest, copying to a large extent the tactics that have served the Town so well—quick movement of the ball and emphasis on attack—were the more cohesive side throughout.

However, despite the fact that they just could not find their stride, the Town kept on level terms until the interval, and for all the midfield weaving of the home side, close-range shots likely to score were few.

Only on a few occasions in the first half was there imminent danger at the Town end, and one of them came when Kelly, Forest's best forward, hit the angle of the woodwork from longish range.

In fact, for an hour, the Town remained level and had two or three snap chances themselves.

If only one of those had been accepted, full confidence might have been restored.

TWO IN FIVE MINUTES

Then, with the game exactly 60 minutes old, ARDRON chased a ball which he seemed to have little chance of getting, but was presented with a chance when Aherne, apparently leaving the ball to Streten, did not clear promptly.

The centre-forward, angled quite acutely, hit the ball just inside the far post. Somewhat unexpected, too, was the fashion in which ARDRON secured the second goal five minutes later.

Just as he had a hand in the first success, Kelly engineered the second, and his high centre was headed through by the centre-forward, despite the fact that both Cooke and Hall were on hand.

If they had remained only one goal down, the Town might have mounted a rally with some hope of success, but they were never shaping confidently enough to promise to wipe out arrears of two goals.

So it turned out, and there were a couple of narrow escapes at the Town end in the closing minutes when first Cooke, then Aherne, headed off the goal-line with Streten out of position.

COLLECTIVE FALLING OFF

While the Town showed weakness in the all-important positions of inside-forward and wing-half, there was a collective falling off, compared with recent form.

The forwards seldom achieved real cohesion even in midfield and the standard of the shooting was low. Any hopes that the absence of Gager might have a weakening effect on the Forest defence were unfounded, for Orr played as if centre-half is his natural position, with the result that Stobbart had few opportunities. The wingers, too, were largely kept in subjection.

With the wing-halves frequently over-run in facing a forward line that was often backed up by Morley and Burkitt and unable to keep tabs on the mercurial Kelly, the Town defence had an uneasy afternoon.

Hall put up a fair game without getting the grip on Ardrone that

Orr obtained on Stobbart, and Cooke was the better full-back. Apart from a couple of mistakes late in the game, which were not fatal, Streten was as certain and confident as ever.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST. — Walker; Hutchinson, Thomas; Morley, Orr, Burkitt; Wilson, Kelly, Ardrone, Scott, Collindridge.

LUTON TOWN.—Streten; Cooke, Aherne; Watkins, Hall, Pemberton; Davies, Taylor (J), Stobbart, Davie, Mitchell.

Referee.—F. W. Chadwick. Leicester. Attendance.—31,107.