

"FORGET IT," SAID THE MANAGER

TOWN'S BAD DAY AT NOTTINGHAM

Unbeaten Run Ended By Ardron's Quick Goals

(By CHILTERN)

"Forget it," was the advice which Manager Dolly Duncan gave to his players immediately after their defeat by the Forest at Nottingham and, certainly, to lose a match after playing the previous eight without defeat represents nothing approaching a disaster.

What did disappoint the players most keenly was that they should fail to strike their best form in front of the thousands of Town supporters who made the journey in an expectant frame of mind.

To write this defeat off as just one of those things and begin next Saturday's match in the same confident frame of mind as if it had never happened was the best advice the manager could have given the players.

Bad days come to every team and one certainly came to the Town, none of whose players really struck the best form of which they are capable.

It was strange that a team should put up two vastly contrasting displays on two consecutive Saturdays and there was little of the rhythm and solid teamwork which was so apparent at Hull.

Two Opportunist Goals By Ardron

WHEN half-time came, the dressing-room discussion was optimistic enough, for having weathered the first-half storm and left the field still on level terms, the idea was that the Town must show improvement afterwards.

However, that failed to materialise and the Forest showed no sign of relaxing their grip and, into the bargain, obtained two goals.

Both came from that fine opportunist, Wally Ardron, but both could have been prevented had the covering been a little tighter and had the leader not been allowed to fasten on to what were really only half chances.

Scored From A Near-Impossible Angle

ON the first occasion, Aherne was taken by surprise when Ardron nipped around him to collect a ball of which the left-back apparently thought that Streten was taking care.

The ball never reached any-

where near the goalkeeper and, even so, with Streten covering his near post, the shot that sent the ball into the far corner of the net was made from one of those near-impossible angles.

That success put the seal on the Forest's confidence. Previously, they had been playing, fast, open football in midfield, only to fail disastrously when it came to making shots at goal.

Forest Had Failed At Close Quarters

ALL through the first half, though they had looked far more capable than the Town and had beaten the Town defence considerably, there was no immediate prospect of goals.

In the penalty area, the Forest's decisive work turned into mediocrity and most of the shooting was done from 20 yards, mostly by Kelly and the result was usually to send the ball over the top.

One exception was a most deceptive shot from the former Arsenal and Crystal Palace player. At first, the ball seemed to be going wide, but the ball hung and struck the angle of the woodwork to provide a nice shock for the Town.

Second Goal Came Five Minutes Later

IT was as if the first goal pointed the way to the Forest and another quickly developed movement brought a second five minutes later.

Again Ardron was the scorer, this time with a header from Kelly's centre. Again, there seemed to be no real danger, for both Cooke and Hall were stand-

For The Records

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 2

(Ardron 2)

LUTON TOWN 0

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Walker; Hutchinson, Thomas; Marley, Orr, Burkhitt; Wilson, Kelly, Ardron, Scott, Collindridge.

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

Referee: F. W. Chadwick, Leicester.

Attendance: 31,107.

ing with the centre-forward in front of goal.

All three went up for the ball, but it was Ardron's head that needed it and the ball beat Streten's outstretched left hand.

Two goals in five minutes clinched the game from the Forest point of view, and the Town were never playing well enough to suggest that they could mount a successful rally.

All-out Attack Paid Dividends

THERE was a shot by Taylor that Walker pushed on to the bar and a couple of drives by Mitchell, but those apart, the Forest defence had not a great deal of anxiety and the Town looked a beaten side well before the end.

Most deservedly did the much re-organised Forest side take the points and it was a triumph for their policy of all-out attack, which seemed to unsettle the Town.

One of the biggest factors was that the wing-halves, Marley and Burkhitt, came through with the ball and another was that both they and the Forest inside-forwards found the open spaces without apparent trouble.

Break-Through Passes A Problem

WHEN opposing wing halves do show a liking for breaking through, they always pose a problem for a defence.

In this case, it developed into a question of whether Taylor and Davis should come back to try to minimise the value of the move, or whether they should stay upfield to try to take advantage of the gaps which must be left.

The Town's inside-forwards did not adopt a defensive role when this break through occurred, which could have been the correct tactic, but, as things happened, the Forest wing-halves and, as a result, the inside men, too, had plenty of room in which to work the ball.

Tell-Tale Gap In Middle Of The Field

THERE was, too, a tell-tale gap between the Town forwards and halves in the middle of the field which accounted, in part, for the lack of cohesion in the Town team.

Neither Taylor nor Davis reached anything like their top form, and they were able to work few openings. Both tended to be caught in possession and there were few of those free-flowing passes which have done so much



Edgar Bennett, the Town's outside-right, scored on his last appearance for the Rovers.

to make the Town attack one to be feared.

In fact, the idea of the forwards as a whole, was more than a little reminiscent of their showing against Blackburn Rovers when they ran into trouble consistently.

Deputy Centre-Half Held Stobbart

THERE was not much support for Stobbart, who, in any case, was closely marked by Orr, making his first-ever appearance at centre-half in senior football.

One good chance came Stobbart's way just before the interval and, with luck running his way, he might have got a foot to a fast-travelling cross by Davis early in the second half.

Apart from that, Stobbart had few openings and was too often ploughing a lonely furrow.

Davis was dominating and again gave too much time to his liking for coming into the middle of the field. Too often is he crowding the other forwards and is adds to the difficulties of playing open football.

Forest Seldom Lost The Initiative

THERE was a period in the first half when Mitchell seemed to have gained the measure of Hutchinson and it looked as if the Town might find a loophole here, but Mitchell did not finish too well and, in addition, the support he received was not of the best.

In fact, the front line, as a whole, did not receive the service it has been enjoying and this was largely because the Forest, having taken the initiative, seldom relaxed their grip.

Watkins and Pemberton never really got on top of things and their job was made difficult by the way in which the Forest forwards moved the ball about.

Pemberton Faced An Unenviable Task

TACKLING was often a difficult business, but neither wing-half was wholly effective in this and their distribution of the ball was often faulty, too.

For Pemberton, this was an unlucky first appearance at left-half, for he came into what was on Saturday, a struggling team.

Had the Town got on top, as they were expected to, he would have had time to settle down, but, as it was, he faced an unenviable task, made more difficult by the

No Decision Yet About Owen

Although Bernard Streten and Roy Davies have received treatment for minor injuries, there were no additions to the Town's injured list as the result of the matches on Saturday.

It is too early yet to say whether Sid Owen will be able to return to the team for the home match with Bradford.

At Nottingham, Sid told me that he has been training, but he feels the trouble in his ankle, not when he is running, but when he kicks the ball. He will probably have a try-out later in the week.

number of times he had to face an additional opponent in Marley

Middle Line Changes A Handicap

THIS was no occasion on which to judge whether Pemberton will be an adequate deputy for Shanks, but he fought gamely and, doubtless, will be given another chance.

To take two men out of such an important department as the half-back line must represent a handicap to a team and although Hall did reasonably well, he did not really dominate the scene.

Especially was this so when the ball was in the air at which phase he was at some disadvantage against Ardron.

Hall's job, too, was far from easy and, in the end, Ardron had the better of a duel from which Hall emerged with honours fairly easy after the first half.

Defence Was Often Uncertain

THROUGHOUT the match, there was evidence of uneasiness among the defence as a whole and there was not that close covering and sureness in the tackle that has been a feature previously.

Facing the debutant, Wilson, a nippy winger, Aherne had a worrying first-half, mainly because he gave the winger too much room in which to operate. He did better after the interval, though he was inclined to be too deliberate at times.

Cooke was as near as anybody to his normal form and it was not until the closing stages when the main damage had been done that Collindridge really became a thorn in the side of the Town.

Full-Backs Prevented Two More Goals

STREten doubtless had thanks for both Cooke and Aherne who each cleared the ball off the goal line in the closing minutes after the goalkeeper had been drawn out of his goal.

This apart, there could be little complaint about Streten's work and he was sure enough in his handling.

This was largely a case of the Town playing as well as they were allowed and there was no questioning which was the superior side on this showing.

Defeat had to come, but there is no reason at all why it should sap the confidence of the team.

Edgar Bennett Made Successful Debut

FEW people expected the Town Reserves to romp home to a 4-1 win over a strong Southampton Reserve team which included several players with considerable League experience.

The Town, fielding a very young side, put up a much-improved performance and all the forwards with the exception of Moore scored.

The occasion was memorable for Edgar Bennett, former Vauxhall Motors' winger, who made a most promising debut and scored a goal into the bargain.

His performance is even more praiseworthy when it is considered that this was his fourth match of the week.

Smith Kept George Curtis Quiet

THE somewhat experimental right wing of Bennett and Cohen, both Service players, settled down well, and there was a welcome spirit of directness about the whole attack.

In a defence which put up a stout resistance, Jones turned in a very good game in his adopted position of centre-half, and Smith, back again after injury, caught the eye with his relentless tackling, and his subjection of George Curtis was of great value to the side.

Summe, too, did well, and this victory should have a tonic effect on the team.



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Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I
Arsenal v Burnley
Aston Villa v Manchester Utd
Blackpool v Charlton Ath
Chelsea v West Bromwich
Derby County v Tottenham H
Huddersfield T v Newcastle Utd
Liverpool v Fulham
Manchester City v Preston N.E.
Preston v Middlesbrough
Sunderland v Stoke City
Wolves v Bolton Wanderers

DIVISION II
Barnaby v Leeds Utd
Blackburn Rovers v Southampton
Bury v Nottingham Forest
Coventry City v Birmingham City
Hull City v Sheffield Wednesday
Luton T v Brentford
Notts County v Doncaster Rovers
Q.P.R. v Everton
Sheff Wed Utd v Rotherham Utd
Swansea T v Leicester City
West Ham v Cardiff City

DIVISION III (SOUTH)
Bournemouth v Shrewsbury T
Brighton v Leyton Orient
Bristol City v Exeter City
Gillingham v Swindon T
Ipswich T v Colchester Utd
Millwall v Walsall
Newport County v Watford
Northampton T v Plymouth
Port Vale v Norwich City
Reading v Bristol Rovers
Southend Utd v Aldershot
Torquay Utd v Crystal Palace

DIVISION III (NORTH)
Bradford City v Rochdale
Chester v Halifax T
Crewe Alexandra v Barrow

Darlington v Stockport County
Gateshead v Workington
Hartlepool Utd v Accrington S
Lincoln City v Bradford
Othman Ath v Carlisle Utd
Scunthorpe Utd v Chesterfield
Southport v Grimsby T
Tranmere Rovers v Wrexham
York City v Mansfield T

SCOTTISH LEAGUE CUP SEMI-FINALS
Celtic v Rangers
Motherwell v Dundee

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"
Aberdeen v Raith Rovers
East Fife v Third Lanark
Hibernian v Morton
Partick Thistle v Stirling Albion
Queen of the South v Aberdeen
St Mirren v Hearts

DIVISION "B"
Albion v Arbroath
Cowdenbeath v Albion Rovers
Falkirk v Ayr Utd
Forfar Ath v Dundee Utd
Hamilton v Clyde
Kilmarnock v Strathgordon
St Johnstone v Dumbarton

SELECTIONS
TEN HOME.—Arsenal, Liverpool, Portsmouth, Sheffield Utd., Swansea, Brighton, Bristol City, Millwall, Gateshead, Tranmere.

FOUR AWAY.—Tottenham, Newcastle, Norwich, Grimsby.

THREE DRAWS.—Manchester City v Preston N.E.; Coventry v Birmingham; Reading v Bristol Rovers.