

A Nightmare Match For Both Sets Of Defenders

By Chiltern

NOTTS COUNTY 5 LUTON TOWN 4

This was a defences' nightmare game, especially in the second half, when six goals were scored and when the situation changed with bewildering quickness, and the result was in doubt until almost the last kick.

In fact, it was not until two minutes from time that the County secured the goal that meant two points for them and a fortunate, tragic affair it was.

Central figure of it was OWEN who, in attempting to head a low cross from Crookes out of harm's way, went full-length and, instead of gliding the ball for a corner, diverted it past Streten into his own net.

What a way in which to be deprived of a point after having held the lead twice!

Ground conditions helped to make this an "anything can happen" sort of match, for with defenders slithering in the mud and finding recovery extremely difficult, the dice was loaded in the forwards' favour.

That fact was not quite so pronounced in the first-half when the scoring was limited to the semi-respectable total of three, two of which fell to the County.

Yet it was the Town who drew first blood in the 19th minute when Moore cleverly laid on a chance for TURNER, who made no mistake in beating Smith from close range.

Earlier, a shot from Crookes had rebounded from one post to another, but the County were not in arrears long, for Lawton cut out an opening for McCORMACK, who accepted it after some hesitation in the first place.

A BREAKAWAY GOAL

For a while after that, the home side had a spell on top, but the Town fought them off, and were doing so much better that a second goal to the County came as a surprise four minutes from half-time.

McPHERSON obtained it, when he fastened on to a long pass by Lawton and cut in to drive the ball past Streten into the farthest corner of the net from quite an acute angle.

In the second-half, there was early threat from the County of an addition to their advantage, but apart from more post hitting, this time by McCormack, there was not a lot to worry about.

After a spell, the Town forwards suddenly found top form and, surviving the disappointment of having a goal by Moore disallowed, they gained equality

after 60 minutes through TAYLOR from Morton's pass.

Two minutes later, a fine individual effort by MOORE put them ahead and there were distinct visions of another away win for the Town.

These were dimmed when a defensive error following a free kick left CROOKES with a chance to head the equaliser after 67 minutes.

Worse was to follow, for with 14 minutes to go, BROOME put the County ahead from McCormack's pass, but the cheering had scarcely died down when TAYLOR headed a very neat goal and made things all square again.

Then came that late, unfortunate affair which finally tipped the scales in the County's favour after as dramatic and thrilling a game as it is possible to imagine.

WILL REMEMBER TOWN FORWARDS

By scoring ten goals against them this season, the Town forwards have given the County defence something to remember them by and they were certainly the more impressive part of the team on Saturday.

Taylor had a very good day and Moore, in the second-half, revealed the punch and drive that he has lacked in some recent matches. Stobbart promised a lot, but scarcely received enough of the ball to carry it out, though he changed places with Turner midway through the second-half.

We have seen Mitchell in more dangerous mood and the very heavy going does not provide conditions best suitable to Turner who had only a fair game.

For the defence, it was a trying day. The wing halves did not obtain the grip they have in recent games, though both did finely during the Town's period of supremacy, and both full-backs, though battling on gamely, found the speed of the wingers trying.

Owen fought hard and with a good amount of success, especially in holding McCormack and there was nothing much that Streten could do about the shots that passed him, though one wonders whether the understanding between him and the rest of the defence is quite so complete as it was.

NOTTS COUNTY. — Smith; Southwell, Deans; Robinson, Leuty, Adamson; McPherson, Lawton, McCormack, Broome, Crookes.

LUTON TOWN. — Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Stobbart, Turner, Moore, Taylor (J.), Mitchell.