

TOWN LOST AFTER SCORING FOUR

UNLUCKY MISTAKE COST A POINT

Conditions Gave Man In Possession An Advantage

By Chiltern

beaten after scoring four goals away from home is disappointing enough in all conscience but it is surely carrying drama a little too far for the winning goal to come in the 88th minute through a defender putting the ball into his own net.

There must have been a fairly accurate summary of the feelings of the Town players as they left the field at Meadow-lane on Saturday after a thrill-packed, muddy battle in which the pendulum of fortune swung just one way, then the other.

picture the scene. Two left, the score 4-4, and breaks away down the goal. He closes in and makes a cross in the hope of finding the standing in the goal-though marked by Aherne. An effort to prevent what has been a repetition of a goal, Owen throws himself into the mud with a notion of playing safe and the ball for a corner. comes the disaster. In the ball going out of the net, out of the Sreten's frantic attempt

Disconsolate Figure Of Sid Owen

moment or two, it looked Owen was injured, but sheer chagrin that kept him full length after what had been a mortal blow to result of his clearance

was the end of things so the Town were concerned, there was not sufficient time to mount another rally. was the most disconsolate on the ground for those last days and it was a tremendous that such an accidental mis-should have cost the Town much, for Owen had worked really hard towards the successful ending which seemed to be the Town's grasp.

The Town Held The Lead Twice

was a game of quick-fire changes, in which the Town held the lead and, at one in the second half, looked victory. there had been a time when Notts seemed to be

headed that way, and especially was this the case in the early minutes of the second half.

Turning around with a 2-1 lead, they began as if they would increase it quickly, and had McCormack left the ball to the oncoming Broome instead of turning and having a smack at it himself, they probably would have done.

As it was, the centre-forward came close enough to scoring for comfort, for the ball hit a post and rebounded into Sreten's hands.

Moore Had A Goal Disallowed

THEN, suddenly, the Town forwards found the streamlined form that had been eluding them except for one spell in the first half.

Instead of trying to work the ball close in the mud, they began to move it about and in doing so, exposed gaps in the County's defence that had not been apparent previously.

Enthusiasm turned to keen disappointment when what seemed to be the equaliser from Moore's foot was disallowed for what turned out to be offside against Taylor, standing a couple of yards from the goal-line.

Nor that that took any of the steam out of the Town—rather did their persistence increase.

Quick Goals Put The Town In The Lead

THEIR chance came after 60 minutes when a low centre from Morton beat Adamson and left Taylor with a chance to smack the ball past Smith from close in.

Two minutes later and the Town were ahead through an individual effort by Moore, who beat Southwell and whipped the



Jack Taylor, Luton's leading marksman, who scored two more on Saturday and brought his total to 17.

* * *

ball smartly past the oncoming Smith.

That state of affairs lasted exactly five minutes and then a defensive error brought the equaliser.

Both Owen and Watkins went up for a long free-kick by Deans when Sreten, behind them, could have cleared easily. The ball went to Crookes, who headed into the net.

Blow Struck By Each Side

THE 76th and 77th minutes brought a goal to each side through Broome for Notts from McCormack's centre and from Taylor, who showed grand judgment in reaching a high lob with his head as Smith came out to grasp it.

Some of the dismay about the happening near the end could have been removed had Moore taken full advantage of a chance when he was allowed to go on from what I thought was an off-side position.

However, with only Smith to beat, he pulled the ball with his left foot wide of the post.

First Half Was Not So Hectic

THE first half had been contested on rather more quiet lines, though the Town goal had one amazing escape when a shot from Crookes rebounded off the inside of one post on to the inside of the other.

But it was Luton who drew first blood through Turner, who took a chance made by Moore very coolly.

That was after 19 minutes and, as was the fashion through this match, the equaliser was not long delayed, for McCormack, after having hesitated when left, by Lawton, with only Sreten to beat, drove it home just as he was rushed by Town defenders.

Seemed To Have Got Through The Worst

NOTTS had a good spell after this goal, but the Town seemed to have weathered the worst of the storm when there came a surprise goal following a breakaway by McPherson.

Left clear by a pass by Lawton from just inside his own half,

FOR THE RECORDS

NOTTS COUNTY 5
McCormack, McPherson,
Crookes, Broome, Owen
(own goal)

LUTON TOWN 4
Turner, Taylor (2),
Moore

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

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

Referee: H. Ball, Worcester.

Attendance: 22,808.

the winger made tracks for goal and, after drawing Sreten out, sent the ball into the farthest corner of the net, though it looked to me as if Sreten got a hand to it.

So, there it was—sensational stuff if ever there was any and the sort of go-ahead football to keep the fans completely on their toes.

Draw Would Have Been a Fair Result

DEFINITELY, the Town were unlucky not to return with a point. They had their slices of good fortune at times, especially when their woodwork was struck, but this was more than cancelled out by Owen's bad luck and the goal from Moore that did not count.

In fact, a draw would have been a result satisfactory to everybody and an adequate reward for two teams who did well to show such staying power in such heavy conditions.

As the score would indicate, the conditions were made for forwards and, particularly, for the man in possession of the ball.

Recovery Difficult For Defenders

ONCE a defender was beaten, recovery was a treacherous difficult business and both defences had their unhappy times.

The Town had not conceded more than three goals previously this season and due allowance must be made for the state of the going, and the fact that mistakes were inevitable.

Yet, they were not so closely knit as they have been and there was more than one case of two players going for the ball at the same time.

Fight they did and they never gave up battling away. Owen made a good job of holding the nippy McCormack and, generally, put up a very strong display.

Danger Came From County's Wingers

TIME and again, he stepped in when danger threatened and yet, he was not so certain when the ball was in the air as he usually is.

Considerable threat came to the

Town from the thrust of Crookes on the left-wing and the somewhat unorthodox play of McPherson on the opposite flank.

Dunne came through quite well, but was inclined to give Crookes too much room, a fact accentuated by the winger often hanging about just inside his own half.

The same applied to Aherne, but both full-backs put in some sturdy work in difficult conditions.

Wing Halves' Grip At Times

THERE was not much that Sreten could do about any of the goals, though there was some slight doubt about the way in which the second came.

Morton and Watkins were not so assertive in mid-field as they have been, but they certainly took a grip on things when the Town got on top in the second-half and they were most forceful in their attempts to drive home attacks against the County's faltering defence.

So that although the Town defence was found wanting in some respects, it certainly bore comparison with that of the County who faced similar problems.

Moore Ended His Blank Spell

TO score four times and yet be out of the bonus stakes is an unusual experience for any forward line and the Town's certainly looked a well-knit dangerous line in the second-half.

One pleasing thing was that Moore broke the blank spell he has had in the first team and he led the attack in such lively style after the interval that he must have staked a claim for retention in the forward line even should Roy Davies be fit for Saturday's Cup-tie with Charlton.

Really coming into his own in the second-half, too, was Taylor, who apart from his two goals, played some direct, constructive football and was always a real danger to the County.

Right Wing Was Switched Over

FROM Stobbart, there were frequent hints that he could cause confusion, but the ball did not come his way often enough in the first half for him to really play on what seemed to be a mastery over Deans, who was upset by an early injury.

Before the second-half was half-way through, Stobbart moved inside and obviously relished being in the thick of things.

The move was made to give Turner a rest from the mud in the middle. Turner had a fair game and again showed how well he can snap up a scoring chance, but he will be seen to better advantage when the going improves.

Mitchell did quite well, without being so dangerous as he can be, but he did resist the temptation to plough into the middle.

Kept A Slender Hope Alive

BY winning at Norwich, the Town Reserves kept alive their rather slight chance of finishing in the top eight of their section of the Football Combination and so qualifying for the newly-formed First Division next season.

Even if the Town win their two remaining matches, Norwich need only three points from three games or Ipswich five points from five to make certain of finishing above the Town which would mean that Luton will be kept out of eighth place.

It is a pity that the Town's spurt has been left so late, but it was an excellent performance to win at Carrow-road.

Deserved To Win By A Bigger Margin

NOT only were they deserving winners, but they might easily have had a wider margin than that given them by the only goal by Arthur Taylor, who, with Bob Wyldes formed the most progressive and dangerous wing on the field.

Wyldes seems to have settled down finely at inside-left and was a continual source of trouble to the Norwich defence.

There was strength in the Town rearguard where the half-backs were outstanding and Smith gave his best display of the season.

Kent's Hat-Trick For Town "A"

ABOUT 1,000 people took advantage of a rare opportunity of seeing the Town's youngsters in action when the "A" team met Tottenham Hotspur "A" at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, and they were rewarded by a fast, exciting game.

Feature of the match was the first-half opportunism of H. Kent, amateur centre-forward, who accomplished a "hat-trick" before half-time.

Even so, Spurs were level at 3-3 when the teams changed around, but the Town were on top afterwards. Goals from Wheeler and Cullen (2) gave them a well-deserved victory.

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Chiltern's Forecasts

F.A. CUP—3rd ROUND

Barnsley v Colchester Utd.
Bradford v Sheffield Wed.
Brentford v Q.P.R.
Bristol R. v Preston N.E.
Burnley v Hartlepool Utd.
Cardiff C. v Swindon T.
Chelsea v Chester
Doncaster R. v Buxton
Fulham v Birmingham C.
Huddersfield T. v Tranmere R. or
Blyth S.
Ipswich T. v Gateshead
Leicester C. v Coventry C.
Leyton O. v Everton
Liverpool v Worthington
Luton T. v Charlton Ath.
Manchester C. v Wolves
Manchester Utd. v Hull C.
Middlesbrough v Derby Co.
Newcastle Utd. v Aston Villa
Norwich C. v Arsenal
Nottm Forest v Blackburn R.
Notts Co. v Stockton
Portsmouth v Lincoln C.
Reading v Swansea T.
Rochdale v Leeds Utd.
Rotherham Utd. v Bury
Scunthorpe Utd. v Tottenham H.
Sheffield Utd. v Newport Co.
Southend Utd. v Southampton
Sunderland v Stoke C.
West Brom. v Bolton W.
West Ham v Blackpool

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Torquay Utd.
Bristol C. v Gillingham
Crystal Palace v Aldershot
Northampton T. v Millwall
Plymouth A. v Exeter C.
Port Vale v Brighton
Watford v Shrewsbury T.

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Barrow v Chesterfield
Crewe Alex. v Oldham Ath.
Mansfield T. v Carlisle Utd.
Stockport Co. v Halifax T.
Wrexham v Grimsby T.

FRIENDLY MATCH

Walsall v Darlington

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v Hibernian
Hearts v St. Mirren
Morton v Dundee
Motherwell v East Fife
Raith Rovers v Celtic
Rangers v Airdrieonians
Stirling Albion v Partick Thistle
Third Lanark v Queen of South

DIVISION "B"

Albion Rovers v Cowdenbeath
Arbroath v Alloa
Ayr Utd. v Falkirk
Clyde v Hamilton
Dumbarton v St. Johnstone
Dundee Utd. v Forfar Ath.
Dunfermline v Queen's Park
Stenhousemuir v Kilmarnock

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Brentford,
Cardiff, Ipswich, Leicester,
Newcastle, Nottingham Forest,
Rotherham, Sunderland, Bristol
C., Plymouth.

FOUR AWAY: Preston,
Leeds, Blackpool, Brighton.

THREE DRAWS: Fulham v
Birmingham, West Brom. v
Bolton, Crewe v Oldham.

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