

Town Failed To Take Scoring Chances

Early Goal Might Have Led To Different Story

By Chiltern

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 4 LUTON TOWN . . 0

WHAT slight hopes there were that the Town could lift themselves into a position from which they could challenge for a promotion bid were dashed completely at Hillsborough yesterday, when Sheffield Wednesday, strongly fancied to regain their place in Division I, took a decisive step in that direction.

They did so not so much because they were superior to the Town generally, but because they had the capacity to snap up the chances, which the Town failed to do.

There was some clever football from the Town—too much of it, perhaps—but they did not pack the final punch carried by the Wednesday forwards, who were more direct, and therefore more effective.

Whereas the Town forwards sometimes tied up a none-too-steady Wednesday defence with cleverness in approach, they did not accept the opportunities which came their way.

In fact, in the first half, during which the Wednesday scored twice, the Town, if anything, had the easier opportunities.

The unexpectedness of the way in which the ball reached him probably took Mitchell by surprise when he found himself admirably placed in front of goal, but before he could get the ball under control Turton recovered and cleared.

McJARROW HEADER

McJarrow had a fine header reached on the goal-line by McIntosh, and both these incidents, which could so easily have brought success, occurred before the Wednesday took the lead after 20 minutes.

Then it was SEWELL who made no mistake when he fastened on to a pass headed on by Quixall. When Morton challenged there was much pushing by both players, but presumably the referee decided that there were six of one and half-a-dozen of the other.

Streten came out to meet Sewell, which was probably ill-advised in the circumstances, for he left himself with little hope of narrowing the angle.

The next minute should have brought the Town an equaliser when Sexton actually forced the ball past McIntosh, but Turton had dropped back and hooked the ball away off the line.

Sexton went close with a low cross shot, and Stobbart was unlucky with a header that sent the ball inches over the bar. Stobbart was injured in the process, though he recovered quickly.

DOOLEY'S GOAL RECORD

However, when the Wednesday forwards were on the move



Derek Dooley

trouble always looked possible, despite some plucky defensive work.

Then that burly red-haired centre-forward, DOOLEY, got the goal that enabled him to beat the record of League goals in a season for the Wednesday, and it was laid on for him on a plate by Sewell.

Dooley ran on to the pass and hit the ball in off the inside of the post as Streten advanced.

The play continued on fairly even lines until half-time, but the Town's shooting was still far from impressive.

MOORE AND McJARROW CHANGE PLACES

For the start of the second half Moore and McJarrow changed places, and the opening minutes might easily have brought the Town a goal, but Sexton was just off the mark with one shot and had another grabbed at the foot of the post by McIntosh's despairing dive.

At this stage there was a readiness to shoot on the part of the Town which had not been so evident previously.

But then they were staggered by the shock of having two goals scored against them in the space of three minutes.

The first came from RICKETT seven minutes after the interval, when a cross from Froggatt reached him, and he simply rammed the ball into the roof of the net.

Before the ball reached him, Dunne had been grounded unfairly, it looked to me, but the referee refused to listen to the Town's appeals.

DOOLEY set up a new record for goals scored in one season for the Wednesday in League and Cup games with as queer a goal as he is likely to get.

This was in the 55th minute, when, left with a close-range chance, he miskicked the ball, deceiving Streten, who had already set himself for a much harder shot, and the ball trickled into the net.

How The Goals Came

SEWELL for Sheffield Wed. after 20 minutes.

DOOLEY for Sheffield Wed. after 36 minutes.

RICKETT for Sheffield Wed. after 52 minutes.

DOOLEY for Sheffield Wed. after 55 minutes.

After that the Wednesday were much in command of the game, and the Town defence had some really bad moments, particularly when Froggatt hit the bar with a pile driver.

There seemed to be another goal in prospect when Sewell took advantage of a misunderstanding between Aherne and Streten and was about to run the ball into an empty net when I suspect he was tripped rather unobtrusively.

The referee did not see it, though, and Aherne recovered to clear.

The rest of the game was mainly a battle between the goal-hungry Wednesday forwards and a somewhat chastened Town defence, which somehow prevented the position from becoming worse than it was.

TOWN CLEVER, BUT—

There continued to be some clever midfield stuff from the Town forwards, but their finishing just was not there, and McIntosh had scarcely anything to do in the last half-hour.

Could the Town have got a goal early on there could have been a different story.

It would have increased their confidence and might have produced some panic in a Wednesday defence that became more sure, more confident, as the game progressed.

Altogether the Town's memories of Sheffield this season will be none too pleasant, for they were beaten, too, by the United, also in hollow fashion.

The defence as a whole had a good first half with Morton making a splendid job of holding Dooley, who had only one real chance before the interval.

The centre-half, of course was at a disadvantage when the ball was in the air but he generally mastered Dooley when it was on the ground.

SEWELL WAS WEDNESDAY'S KEY MAN

Key man of the Sheffield attack was Sewell, on whom Watkins never got a grip, and quite a lot of danger emanated from that quarter.

This meant that Aherne got a bit of a chasing at times from Froggatt, but, on the whole, Aherne came out on top and his kicking was again good.

There was much covering and hard work from Shanks, and Dunne turned in quite a reasonable display, though he was rather shaken up when the third goal was scored and was not quite so effective afterwards.

Collectively, the defence had a bad ten minutes at the start of the second half, and there was always thrust and danger when the Wednesday moved to the attack.

They took a shorter time to achieve more than did the Town forwards, who were inclined to be a little academic. Much of their midfield play, well executed as it was, broke down because of the inaccuracy of the final pass and the lack of shooting power.

MOORE WELL HELD

Moore was pretty well held by Turton, and McJarrow, admittedly without a great deal of support, did not achieve much more when he moved into the middle in the second half.

Earlier he had been prominent with some neat headers and clever footwork, but generally he looked as if he needed this game.

Mitchell was a more progressive winger than Stobbart, who was inclined to wander inside too much.

As good a forward as the Town had during the time that they were in the game with a chance was Sexton, who showed cleverness in the dribble and a capacity for having a crack at goal which might have brought him more reward.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY—McIntosh; Bannister, Curtis; Gannon, Turton, Witcomb; Froggatt, Sewell, Dooley, Quixall, Rickett.

LUTON TOWN — Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Stobbart, McJarrow, Moore, Sexton, Mitchell.

Referee.—B E A Buckle, Peterborough.

Attendance.—25,848.