

Blair Was The Bogeyman To Luton Once Again

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 2 CARDIFF CITY 2

If the Town consider Douglas Blair to be one of their bogey-men it would not be surprising, for when they were at Ninian Park earlier in the season he scored two of the three goals against them.

At Kenilworth-road on Saturday an inspired bit of work by him led to Cardiff's second equaliser and the Town had to be satisfied with one point when they had thoroughly earned two on the run of the play.

Blair, who had been Cardiff's most enterprising forward, changed the course of the game when he switched to left-half following an injury to McLaughlin.

With 11 minutes to go, and Cardiff facing a defeat that would have been disastrous to their promotion hopes, he gained the ball in a tackle on Taylor, and in the course of a long run swept through the Town defence before slipping the ball to Grant.

From the left flank the centre-forward placed the ball into an open space in front of goal, and a headlong rush by WILLIAMS sent it hurtling into the net.

That was the pattern of the goal that might take First Division football back to South Wales, but Cardiff were fortunate to have the opportunity of regaining that status.

In the first half they were largely outplayed by a smooth-working Town team, whose forwards cut their way through the Cardiff defence with almost bewildering ease.

EARLY GOAL FOR TOWN

When neat work by Taylor left McJARROW with a chance that he accepted skilfully in the fourth minute, the Town were put right on their mettle, and there were panic signs flying among the Cardiff defenders for quite a time.

Yet, aided by the run of the ball in front of goal, they survived further setbacks, but with normal luck in their shooting the Town would have been well ahead.

Incident that caused most discussion was the penalty three minutes before the interval that brought Cardiff their equaliser through SHERWOOD.

McLaughlin went down in a tackle with Owen, and the referee promptly pointed to the penalty spot—a decision with which the majority of the Town fans firmly disagreed.

The goal had a settling effect on Cardiff, who looked better together after the interval, but the Town were still the more dangerous, and Moore deservedly restored their lead with a drive from the fringe of the penalty area.

HIGHWAY ROBBERY

After that Cardiff made a desperate fight of it, but that they should share the points was almost a case of highway robbery.

The game was spoilt to a large extent by the number of stoppages for fouls which should have been stamped on more firmly at the outset.

At least twice there were threatened bouts of fisticuffs which, fortunately, did not get beyond the framing up stage. Grant had his name taken for a foul on Owen.

The Town forwards moved with purpose and smoothness in the first half, though they rather fell away afterwards.

McJarrow and Taylor were both very good before the interval, but,

taking the game through, Moore and Mitchell were the most consistent forwards, though Stobbart did well, too.

For most of the time the defence was very much in command of the Cardiff forwards, who seldom threatened goals.

Taking a firm grip were the three half-backs, and Jones and Aherne formed a solid full-back partnership, with the former staking a claim for retention in the team. Streten had a comparatively easy afternoon.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Stobbart, Taylor (J), Moore, McJarrow, Mitchell.

CARDIFF CITY: Howells; Stitfall, Sherwood; McLaughlin, Montgomery, Baker; Williams (R), Blair, Grant, Chisholm, Edwards.

Referee: R. J. Burgess, Reading.

Attendance: 14,186.