

DEFENCE ABSORBED EARLY HULL SHOCKS

Then Town Went On To A Deserved Away Victory

By Chiltern

HULL CITY 0 LUTON TOWN 2

For about half an hour at Boothferry Park on Saturday the Town found themselves on the receiving end of what they have been serving up to their opponents in several matches during their recent successful spell—relentless, almost unceasing attack.

That the defence was strong enough to absorb the shock tactics produced by Hull in the early stages was the main reason why there was another victory to record.

Had they faltered under pressure, and had Hull managed to get their heads in front, there might well have been a different story, but the home forwards, eager but lacking in leadership, were thrown back time and again.

However, heavy pressure had to bring chances sooner or later and a couple fell to Horton, who missed badly each time.

During this period, the Town forwards, seeing little of the ball, had to be content with breakaway, but as the fury of the Hull attack was tamed, they came more and more into the picture.

Nearing the interval, the Town were beginning to take a grip on things, with the forwards exposing weaknesses in the Hull defence and giving promise of goals later.

The first came in somewhat unexpected style when Pye fell flat on his face in the penalty area after being tripped by Durham and that fine marksman, MITCHELL, slammed the ball into the corner of the net.

Only five minutes of the second half had gone when this occurred and, naturally, there were desperate efforts by the home side to wipe out this reverse.

DEFENCE STOOD FIRM AGAIN

Again, though, the Town defence stood firm and, during this half, their forwards were much the better balanced line and showed altogether more constructive ideas in mounting their attacks.

There was the distinct danger, of course, of Hull getting a goal which would have whipped up their enthusiasm and that of the crowd to fever pitch.

Few chances occurred for that to happen, but Burbanks might well have done the trick had he been allowed to take aim about 10 yards from goal.

Unhappily for both him and Hull, Harrison saw the chance, too, and dashed in to head the ball harmlessly over the bar.

Over-eagerness which brought weakness in finishing was one of Hull's main troubles. On the other hand, the Town forwards set about their work in more deliberate fashion, and only a somewhat lucky save by Bly prevented Pye from adding to the lead after he had beaten Duthie cleverly.

Then, when it looked as if PYE was to be denied his customary goal, he and Moore cut through the Hull defence.

Eventually the ball ran almost to the dead-line and from a very acute angle, the centre-forward turned the ball into the net with Bly well out of position.

There was no doubt that victory went to the more able and more polished side, and there was a good all-round display from the Town once they were able to settle down.

Hull's early tactics were obviously designed to throw the Town out of their stride, and it goes to the credit of the defence that they did not allow this to happen.

Strong, fearless tackling and admirable covering were features of the defensive display, and Dunne, Owen and Aherne formed a solid barrier which threw back the home forwards time and again.

Owen's was an outstanding contribution, and so was that made by Streten, whose work raised cheers from this partisan, disappointed crowd.

Without being able to dominate the middle of the field, Morton and Shanks did what was re-

quired, and the defence, as a whole, had a most satisfactory, water-tight look.

Once the forwards began to receive a liberal supply of the ball, they moved well, with Pye again prominent with his brilliant footwork, and the able manner in which he held the line together.

Both Moore and Watkins turned in the sort of hard-working displays that were needed in a hard-fought match of this sort, and it was good to see Davies making the utmost use of the good service that came his way during the second half.

Showing speed and directness, the right-winger was constantly dangerous, and there were many occasions, too, when Mitchell caused concern to the home defence.

HULL CITY: Bly; Hassall, Jensen; Harris, Duthie, Durham; Murray, Horton, Harrison, Todd, Burbanks.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Moore, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

Referee: G. Gibson, Manchester. Attendance: 22,484.