

PYE'S EQUALISER EARNED A REPLAY

Dramatic Goal In Last Minute Of First Half

By Chiltern

MANCHESTER CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 1

With just a few seconds to go to half-time, Manchester City looked to be nicely placed in this match at Maine-road on Saturday, for after playing against the wind, they were leading by the only goal.

That last minute of the first half brought perhaps the most dramatic moment in a match that fell rather below expectations because of the difficulties a strong, gusty wind posed to players of both teams.

Making one of his strong, swerving runs in a desperate effort to get the goal that would act as a tonic to the Town in their uphill fight after the interval, Pye was brought down and left sprawling on the ground a couple of yards outside the penalty area.

Promptly, the referee awarded the Town a free kick, and, hopefully, they worked one of football's oldest tricks. Moore shaped to take the kick, ran past the ball and PYE, following up close behind him, slammed the ball low into the net before the City defence, which had left a gap, or Trautmann, knew what was happening.

Before the cheers of the delighted Town contingent, estimated at 5,000, had died down, the half-time whistle blew, and they were left to speculate on the possible outcome of the Town's battle against the wind in the second half.

This turned out to be not so difficult as some of us thought at the interval, for although the City went all out from the start and there was a fortunate clearance in which Hall and Baynham between them somehow managed to keep a point-blank drive out there were few occasions when the Town goal looked likely to fall again.

MOORE NEARLY GOT WINNER

Well-placed corners were the main threat throughout the half, but the City's shooting was largely off the mark, and they did not take full advantage from having the wind in their favour.

Indeed, the nearest approach to a goal that would have made unnecessary a second meeting, came near the end when Moore got clear of all opposition except Trautmann and hit the ball hard. The goalkeeper made a despairing leap, was nowhere near the ball with his hands, but it struck him on the knee and was diverted to safety.

The City's goal had come 20 minutes after the start and was the result of almost their first direct shot at goal. Baynham, in fact, did not handle the ball during the first 10 minutes.

BROADIS was the scorer with a perfectly-timed left-foot shot into the corner of the net, after Morton had half headed away a well-placed free kick taken by Revie almost on the touchline.

It was immediately after this success that the City had their best chance to clinch the game, and Cunliffe missed a good chance by pulling the ball wide, and Broadis shot wildly when left with an opportunity similar to that from which he had scored.

There was no question of one-way traffic in the second half when the Town forwards looked more dangerous than they had been with the wind behind them, and they kept the City defence on tenterhooks with suddenly-developed attacks.

Not that this was a game in which forwards were allowed to shine brightly, for defences had much of a grip, and the wind making ball control difficult, also lowered the accuracy of the passing movements.

PYE NEEDED WATCHING

Pye was the Luton forward whom the City could never afford to leave for a second, for with his deft footwork and short bursts of speed he was an ever-present menace.

From Moore, too, there were some sharp breaks-through that might have been attended with bet-

ter fortune and a raking first-half drive from 35 yards was one of the best efforts in the match.

Much of his passing was off target though but even so, he and Cullen formed quite a progressive wing with the latter clever in approach. However, after a shaking up in a tackle late in the game, he tended to be caught in possession.

Particularly in the second half, there was a lot of valuable work in the background from Watkins, but Mitchell, well watched by Branagan, did not get the fullest measure of support from his partner.

A slice of bad luck five minutes from the end was the injury that ended Shanks's part in the match and Watkins dropped back to fill in the gap, though the City did not really threaten to obtain the winner even then.

Along with Morton, again in brilliant form, Shanks had played manfully and had done much to hold up a City line that rarely moved smoothly.

Early on, the brilliance of Broadis was a distinct menace—until Morton got his measure and then the inside-left's influence became less and less.

Hall, late deputy for Owen, made some mistakes early on but settled down to play an effective part in the success and he gave Williamson little room in which to operate.

Both full-backs were more than adequate and shut out the City wingers, while what there was to do Baynham accomplished in highly competent style.

MANCHESTER CITY.—Trautmann; Branagan, Little; Revie, Ewing, Paul; Meadows, Snurdle, Williamson, Broadis, Cunliffe.

LUTON TOWN.—Baynham, Jones, Anerne; Morton, Hall, Shanks; Cullen, Moore, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

Referee: G. F. Sawyer, Weston-Super-Mare.

Attendance.—38,411. Receipts, £5,482.