

ALL CLEAR FOR LEAGUE BID NOW

Huddersfield Slip Opens Up Issue

Disappointing Showing By The Town Attack

By Chiltern

Some clubs say: "Now we can concentrate on the League," after making their exit from the Cup, they strike a note of false optimism and although I heard no Town official voice this opinion after last Saturday's defeat by Bolton Wanderers at Kenilworth-road, it could have been said—and with a wealth of meaning.

Immediate reaction, of course, was of keen disappointment that that was the end of all the excitement that the knock-out competition brings, and when one studies the position, it could well be a blessing in disguise.

That Huddersfield had been a good deal of a disappointment for the defeat, and escaped the notice of supporters that if the Town had won on Saturday, they have been forced to play matches with Huddersfield and Sheffield United in the next four days, which they would not have helped to cause at all.

Anxiety About The Forward Line

That of this smacks of "sour grapes" for a defeat suffered by Sheffield United and Huddersfield during the past fortnight, the Town in with a chance for promotion. It is causing some anxiety that the forward line is not working as it should, and one back to the old discussion about the necessity of increasing the inside-forward of the type and with the ability to hold the ball.

Relying Too Much On Craft Of Pye

All the policy of playing forwards in a line, too much responsibility is placed on the craft of Pye, and that he was heavily helped by Barrass, and the remainder of the Town

team played to him to such a high degree, had a lot to do with the attack drawing its first blank since failing to score at Huddersfield on October 11.

Much of the Town plan was based on the ability of Pye drawing Barrass out of the middle and making openings for Turner and Moore, but things did not work out that way in the main.

Some Chances Were Laid On

YET, despite the close watch that was kept on him, the centre-forward did make some chances, of which better use should have been made.

The beautiful flick early in the game that sent Moore racing through could very well have brought a goal and represented perhaps the best chance that came the way of the Town.

A goal at that early stage might very well have turned the course of the game completely, for it would have settled the Town and had quite the opposite effect on Bolton, who were none too sure of themselves at the beginning.

Lofthouse's Goal A Picture Effort

NOT until they secured that picture goal headed by Lofthouse in the 32nd minute did Bolton achieve the assurance and style expected from a First Division side and, when it came, it was against the run of the play.

Yet the movement that brought it was beautifully executed by Moir, and Lofthouse showed why he has the reputation of being perhaps the most opportunistic centre-forward in the game. He raced through to head

accurately a lobbed pass by Moir, and Baynham, halfway out of his goal, was left helplessly placed.

Bolton Wing-Halves Took A Grip

THE very quickness of the movement caught the Town defence off guard, and it was a gem of a goal.

Never did the Town flag in their fight for an equaliser, but with little coming from the inside forwards, they seldom revealed gaps in a stalwart Bolton defence, in which the wing-halves achieved almost a complete grip on Moore and Turner.

Hard though Pye tried to scheme an equaliser, he failed through the dual reasons of Barrass's close marking and the lack of support he received from his inside men.

Deep Thought Before Team Choice?

BEFORE the team to visit Nottingham on Thursday is chosen, there will probably be some deep thinking on the subject of the forward set-up, and although Turner did make Hanson bring off daring saves twice in the first half, he was mostly shut out.

Moore was rather stronger and more assertive, but the whole line is suffering from the lack of someone to do the sort of job that Watkins did before Christmas.

Continued absence of Shanks is a blow, not because it has created a weakness at left-half, where Watkins is playing very well, but because it seems to preclude a return to the most successful forward formation.

Morton Switched Into The Attack

AS things stand at the moment, if Pye is shut out of the game, and that must be expected to happen in view of his reputation, there is no one to take over his mantle, or to take the weight away from him.

The nearest the Town came to forcing a replay was when Pye headed in a free kick from Mitchell and Hanson made a fine one-handed save, and when a raking drive by Mitchell screamed a foot over the bar.

Late gamble of moving Morton into the forward line and bringing

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 0
BOLTON WANDERERS... 1
(Lofthouse)
LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Cullen, Moore, Pye, Turner, Mitchell.

BOLTON WANDERERS: Hanson; Hartle, Higgins; Wheeler, Barrass, Bell; Holden, Moir, Lofthouse, Hassall, Langton.

Referee: A. Bond, London.
Attendance: 23,735.

Turner back to wing-half did not succeed, though Morton looked at times as if he might cleave a way through the tightly packed Bolton defence.

Going Was Against The Town's Style

ON the day, Bolton were worth their success, which came as much from the mastery which their wing-halves achieved as from anything else.

One comment that a disappointed Dally Duncan made after the match was that the conditions helped Bolton in that it cut down the speed of the Town forwards, gave the visitors' defence more time in which to break up attacks and made them look perhaps more formidable than they would have been on faster going.

After Pye, the man who looked as if he might pull the game out of the fire was Mitchell, but, again, the best of service did not come his way.

Were Up Against A Tough Proposition

ON the other wing, Cullen was clever in his footwork, but something of a more direct nature was wanted and he put several centres behind, admittedly when being harassed, after good openings had been made.

The attack was disappointing.

but they found themselves up against a vastly different proposition from Manchester City and due credit should be given to the Bolton defence.

To limit such a talented forward line as that possessed by Bolton to one goal is adequate testimony to the work of the Town's defence, which played its part to the full.

Defence Coped Well With The Situation

OCCASIONALLY they were caught on the wrong foot, mostly through the accurate passing of Moir and the cutting in of Langton but, on the whole, they coped extremely well with a difficult situation.

There was another sparkling contribution from Morton who, for the first 25 minutes or so, was almost a sixth forward and sought with every means in his power to drive on the Town to gain the beneficial effect of the first goal.

Alongside him, Owen, though by no means achieving a mastery over Lofthouse, did a very good job in cutting down the effectiveness of the centre-forward and did some great work during periods of pressure.

The Middle Line Was Strong

IN fact, there could be little complaint about the middle line as a whole, for Watkins was much in the picture with his hard tackling and he toiled tirelessly from start to finish.

Behind him, Aherne was able to match the speed of Holden with his sound positional sense, and it was not until the second half that Jones was much worried by Langton.

Then the outside left began to wander, and this and his knack for getting in the open space enabled him to be more of a danger than he had been.

Goalkeeping Was A Difficult Job

GOALKEEPING was a difficult business in the treacherous conditions, but both Baynham and Hanson effected some grand saves.

Had Baynham remained in his goal when Lofthouse scored, the odds are that he would still have been beaten, for the centre-forward was clear of opposition and he did a good job for his team.

Perhaps, with the going as it was, it would have been better had the Town not kept the ball so close, and it was noticeable that the most danger accrued from Bolton when they used the long pass, usually down the middle in an attempt to get Lofthouse going.

Not So Thrilling As Was Expected

ALTOGETHER, the game left one with a disappointed feeling, for large parts of it were strangely unlike what we expected in a Cup-tie.

Thrills came at widely spaced intervals, due in the main to the close marking and good covering of the two defences.

Although the crowd was the biggest of the season, it fell below what had been expected, as much from the uncertainty about whether it would be played at all, as from the bleak weather.

PRAISE FOR LUTON B.C.

"Home Of The County Organisation"

Luton Town Bowling Club was praised by several speakers at the Bedfordshire County Bowling Association annual dinner at Skefko on Saturday.

Mr. J. Wilson, President of Surrey C.B.A., congratulated them on their fine achievement in winning four of the five county competitions and being runners-up in the fifth event.

Apart from winning the singles, triples, rink and club championships and reaching the final of the pairs championship, Luton Town also won the London and Southern Counties Shield.

Mr. F. C. Ruff, President of Bedfordshire C.B.A., said that Luton Town might be called the home of the county organisation.

"They are always ready to help us and I congratulate them on their enormous success," he said.

Then Mr. Ruff offered his sympathy to the club on the loss of their pavilion by fire. He also paid tribute to the late Alderman W. J. Edwards and the company stood in silence in his memory.

A WONDERFUL MAN

"Billy Edwards was a wonderful man," said Mr. Ruff. "With his physical disability his life was one long triumph over adversity. We grew to love him and we miss him greatly. Luton and the Association have lost a staunch friend and a gallant supporter."

Senior vice-president of the Bedfordshire Association, Mr. A. E. Chew, said that Bedfordshire has provided the E.B.A. with two presidents in 50 years, and they were proud of that record.

He was proposing a toast to the English Association and said that he thought it strange that bowls, one of England's oldest games, did not have a ruling body until 1903.

"But the game has grown in popularity enormously since the turn of the century, and that is due to the fine way in which the officers of the Association have carried out their duties," declared Mr. Chew.

Responding to this toast, Mr. F. Burton, senior vice-president of the E.B.A., said that, apart from archery, bowls was England's oldest game. "The story of our game is the story of our island," he said.

Toast to "Guests and Kindred Associations" was proposed by Mr. J. W. Bird, a former President, and the Mayor of Luton, Cllr. T. Skelton, Dr. Charles Hill,

M.P., and Mrs. E. M. Bonnett, honorary secretary of Beds. W.C.B.A. responded.

Mrs. Bonnett said that the Women's Association was waiting for any women who wanted to join. "We had the impulse to start and we have the determination to succeed," she said.

In the absence through illness of Mrs. W. J. Edwards, prizes were presented by Mrs. F. C. Ruff.

Singles championship: Winner, S. Jackson (Luton Town); runner-up, S. Morgan (Luton Town).

Pairs championship: H. J. C. Dean and W. J. Neal (Bedford Borough); runners-up, R. Dawkes and E. C. Holdstock (Luton Town).

Trips' championship: O. H. Manser, E. C. Holdstock, S. Jackson (Luton Town); runners-up, C. W. Barden, L. King, H. A. Cawdell (Luton Town).

Rink championship: F. S. Puddenhatt, A. McTurk, W. Richardson, C. Halsey (Luton Town); runners-up, F. O'iver, H. Burdon, C. Jones, C. Tomlin (Skefko).

Club championship: Luton Town; runners-up, Skefko.

Benevolent Fund Triples: B. Walker, A. Carter, W. J. Eazleton (St. Andrew's); runners-up, R. Howlett, W. Mead, J. Emery (George Kent).

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I
Blackpool v Arsenal
Bolton W v Aston Villa
Cardiff C v Manchester C
Chelsea v Charlton Ath
Derby C v Burnley
Manchester Utd v Wolves
Newcastle Utd v Liverpool
Portsmouth v Sunderland
Sheffield Wed v Stoke C
Tottenham H v Preston NF
West Brom v Middlesbrough

DIVISION II
Birmingham C v Bury
Blackburn R v Sheffield Utd
Brentford v Doncaster R
Everton v Swansea T
Hull C v Barnsley
Leeds Utd v Notts C
Lincoln C v Fulham
Luton T v Southampton
Nottm Forest v Huddersfield T
Plymouth A v Leicester C
Rotherham Utd v West Ham

DIVISION III (SOUTH)
Bournemouth v Watford
Bristol R v Coventry C
Gillingham v Colchester Utd
Ipswich T v Newport C
Leyton O v Crystal Palace
Millwall v Norwich C
Northampton T v Bristol C
Reading v Brighton
Shrewsbury T v Swindon T
Southend Utd v Q.P.R.
Torquay Utd v Exeter C
Walsall v Aldershot

DIVISION III (NORTH)
Accrington v Barrow
Barnsley C v Darlington
Chester v Carlisle Utd
Chesterfield v York C

Crewe Alex v Tranmere R
Halifax T v Wrexham
Mansfield T v Bradford
Port Vale v Southport
Rochdale v Oldham Ath
Scunthorpe U v Hartlepool U
Stockport C v Gateshead
Workington v Grimsby T

**SCOTTISH CUP
(THIRD ROUND)**
Aberdeen v Motherwell
Airdrieonians v Hibernian
Clyde v Ayr Utd
Falkirk v Celtic
Hearts v Montrose
Morton v Rangers
Queen of South v Albion Roy
Third Lanark v Hamilton

**SCOTTISH LEAGUE
DIVISION "A"**
Dundee v East Fife
Partick T v St. Mirren

DIVISION "B"
Arbroath v Dumbarton
Aberdeen v Dunfermline
Cowdenbeath v Stenhousemuir
Kilmarnock v Stirling A
Queen's Park v Dundee Utd

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Sheffield Wed, West Brom, Birmingham, Everton, Leeds, Millwall, Northampton, Bradford C, Port Vale, Scunthorpe.

FOUR AWAYS.—Arsenal, Sheffield Utd, Oldham, Grimsby.

THREE DRAWS.—Manchester Utd v Wolves; Nottm Forest v Huddersfield; Accrington v Barrow.

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