

PROMOTION HOPES TOOK A DIVE

HUDDERSFIELD HELD TOWN ATTACK AGAIN

'Half-Chances Not Coming Off Now,' Says Manager

By Chiltern

A disappointed Dally Duncan stood in the Boardroom after seeing his promotion hopes virtually blown sky-high by Huddersfield Town and gave his version of the reason for the dropping of the Town's goal output in recent matches.

"When we were getting plenty of goals regularly, half-chances were flying into the back of the net, and now they are not." In saying that, he had in mind the three real opportunities the Town had in this match and which they failed to accept.

As to continue the Duncan's remarks, "Huddersfield had half-chances and took them and they were only a half-chance."

Duncan traced back his forward troubles to the misfortune that befell the club when Wally Shanks was injured in the closing minutes of the Cup-tie at Manchester, which caused the recall to the middle line of Watkins, who has been the most successful inside-left tried this season.

The manager's view is that if that had not been a necessary measure, the Town would not have struck this bad patch or, alternatively, had they been able to send a top-class inside-forward when things were going well, promotion might still have been a bright hope.

Injuries Came At The Wrong Time

INJURIES have to be expected and, unfortunately, they hit the Town at the wrong time.

Apart from Shanks, Davies, Pye, Mitchell, Ahern and Baynam have all had to stand down in recent weeks and the wholesale changes made necessary partly by the absence of the last-named three on Saturday, certainly did not help to secure smoothness of working in a match that was absolutely vital to both teams.

Huddersfield won because they were more cohesive, stronger and had a better understanding, and no one could begrudge them their success.

Hit By Two Goals In Four Minutes

YET the Town had sufficient of the play to have achieved a vastly different result and were badly hit by the shock of conceding two goals in the space of four minutes shortly before half-time.

A few minutes before these blows occurred, the Town had had one of their best chances of going ahead when Moore slipped the ball to Pye, who steadied

himself for a shot from reasonably close range.

Everybody expected a goal, for Pye does not often miss and he hit the ball low and hard, only to be foiled by a despairing leap by Wheeler that enabled him to divert the ball for a corner rather luckily.

Split-Second Effort By Glazzard

THAT might easily have been a decisive goal to the Town, but it was Glazzard who got the one that really counted with a brilliant first-time shot that sent the ball flying into the top corner of the net from Duthie's pass.

It was a split-second effort after Jones had failed in his intervention and it was followed four minutes later by a goal by Shiner who toe-ended the ball through after Glazzard and Owen had gone up for a high pass together and it had been flicked on to the inside left.

Streten came out, but did not get far enough, and Shiner registered his first goal in League football.

Little Cohesion In Town Attack

IN doing so, he was slightly injured and whilst he was receiving attention, the referee went over to consult a linesman about the legitimacy of the goal against which the Town claimed on the grounds of offside.

He allowed it and that placed Huddersfield in an immensely strong position, especially as the Town forwards, none too well together in the first half, showed little cohesion in the second half, despite the fact that they received a great deal of the ball.

An early goal might have revived them into something like the striking force they have been, and there was the chance of one when Moore went racing through a rare gap with the ball at his feet.

Huddersfield Then Played For Safety

AGAIN the crowd waited for a success, but again Wheeler somehow got a hand to the ball and sent it out of danger.

After that it was mostly a case of Huddersfield being content to play a spoiling sort of game, allowing the Town to run themselves out in midfield and then playing for safety when the ball reached anywhere in the region of their penalty area.

The other good opening this half fell to Moore, after the ball had cocked up during a duel between Pye and Staniforth.

Wheeler had come out of goal and although two or three defenders were between him and the net, Moore looked to have a reasonably easy task.

Hopes Not Bright After Goal Shocks

HE headed the ball deliberately and firmly, but wide of the post and that was about the end of the Town's hopes, which never looked very bright after Huddersfield had gained the lead.

In the main, the Huddersfield defence, strong, hard-tackling and accurate in their covering, broke up the Luton raids that lacked the accuracy and skill in approach to break down the visitors.

For most of the game, the Town attack looked an experimental affair that functioned only in fits and starts and, once more, the difficulty of filling the inside-left position was emphasised.

Left Wing Was Disappointing

THE third player to fill the berth in consecutive matches, Sexton began brightly enough, but the sparkle did not last long and he gradually faded right out of the picture and was scarcely seen in the second half.

After his long absence from League football, it was perhaps unwise to bring him back for such an important match and, near the end, he changed over with Pemberton.

Not a lot came from the left wing and although Pemberton is a trier and was dangerous several times before the interval, he can be regarded as a winger only as an emergency measure and his value then is mainly as an opportunist.

Not Sufficient Support For Pye

ONCE again, there was nothing like the measure of support a centre-forward is entitled to expect and though Pye schemed and used all his craft to try to find loopholes, lack of support, combined with the close attentions of McEvoy, cut down his threat to the visitors' defence.

Maybe, because of all this, he tended to be caught in position and he was guilty of some indifferent finishing now and again. This was a fault shared by the whole line and Moore had a very patchy afternoon and was dangerous only in bursts.

Perhaps the most consistent of the forwards was Davies, who was unlucky enough to have a sharp rap on his ankle during the first half, but got over that and kept pegging away.

Dunne Worried By Metcalfe Again

EVERY defence makes errors at some time or another during a match and it was unfortunate from the Town viewpoint that two were turned into goals.

However, though they had their uncertain periods, the defence as a whole was more successful than the attack.

Dunne did not repeat his Nottingham success and perhaps had too clearly in mind the bad time he had from Metcalfe at Huddersfield.

Possibly this was accentuated by the almost off-hand manner

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 0
HUDDERSFIELD T. 2
Glazzard, Shiner
LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Jones; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Davies, Moore, Pye, Sexton, Pemberton.
HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: Wheeler; Staniforth, Kelly; McGarry, McEvoy, Quesed; Duthie, Davie, Glazzard, Shiner, Metcalfe.
Referee: W. Ratcliffe, Staffs.
Attendance: 25,831.

in which Metcalfe swept by him when the match had been in progress only two or three minutes, and Dunne looked ill at ease afterwards.

Watkins Turned In A Grand Display

NOT that Metcalfe repeated his complete triumph of the first match, but Dunne's general play was not good and his kicking was often inaccurate.

On the other hand, Jones settled down well on the left flank and with a strong display from Watkins, this was the more impressive side of the Town defence.

Nobody quite knew what Andy Beattie had in mind when he switched Davie to inside-right, but although on this showing, the Town could use his generalship, he found Watkins a doughty opponent and this was one of the best games the left-half has played this season.

Not So Forthright As Usual

ON the other hand, Morton lacked his usual decision and he is seldom guilty of so much fiddling near his own penalty area as he was in this match.

Occasionally, we saw the strong forthright Morton we

expect, but it was not often enough and I am afraid he did not do sufficient to press home his undoubted claims for representative honours, especially as England's team manager, Walter Winterbottom, was a spectator.

Glazzard escaped the clutches of Owen to score the goal that set Huddersfield on the way to victory, but the centre-half came out top on balance and there could be little complaint about his handling of the situation.

Some Good Saves Made By Streten

STREten, back in the team after a period of reserve service, was in confident mood and cut out the cross-ball competently.

There were several first-class saves from him, and generally he made the sort of come-back that emphasised the Town's strength in this department.

Some inclined to the view afterwards that he might have smothered the ball when Shiner obtained the second goal, but this incident developed so unexpectedly that Streten was left in an unenviable position.

Now the visit to Sheffield looms on the horizon, and the manager faces another problem of team selection. News yesterday was that Baynam, Ahern and Mitchell are all likely to be available for Saturday.

First Blank For 17 League Matches

UNTIL last Saturday, the Town had scored at least once in the last 17 League matches, and it is perhaps more than coincidence and due to the strength of the opposing defence that the last time they drew a blank was at Huddersfield on October 11.

Apart from that, this was the third consecutive Saturday on which the home crowd had had to swallow the bitter pill of seeing a home defeat registered.

That must have been particularly galling to the Town officials in view of the fact that they housed at last the sort of attendance expected when a team is in the promotion fight.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Cardiff
Aston Villa v Liverpool
Blackpool v Tottenham
Bolton v Manchester City
Charlton v Newcastle
Chelsea v Burnley
Derby v Sheffield Wednesday
Manchester United v Preston
Portsmouth v Stoke
Sunderland v Middlesbrough
Wolves v West Brom

DIVISION II

Barnsley v Leeds
Blackburn v Fulham
Brentford v Notts County
Doncaster v Southampton
Everton v Leicester
Huddersfield v Birmingham
Hull v Rotherham
Lincoln v Plymouth
Nottingham Forest v West Ham
Sheffield United v Luton Town
Swansea v Bury

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Bournemouth v Norwich
Brighton v Swindon
Bristol City v Walsall
Crystal Palace v Shrewsbury
Exeter v Exeter
Leyton Orient v Bristol Rovers
Newport v Q.P.R.
Northampton v Millwall
Reading v Coventry
Southend v Colchester
Torquay v Gillingham
Watford v Aldershot

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Bradford City v Grimsby
Carlisle v Mansfield

Chester v Chesterfield
Crewe v Accrington
Darlington v Wrexham
Gateshead v Bradford
Hartlepool v Oldham
Port Vale v Workington
Rochdale v Barrow
Scunthorpe v Tranmere
Southport v Halifax
Stockport v York

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Celtic v Partick Thistle
Dundee v Hibernian
East Fife v Airdrieonians
Hearts v Aberdeen
Motherwell v Raith
Queen of the South v Falkirk
Rangers v Clyde
Third Lanark v St. Mirren

DIVISION "B"

Albion v Alloa
Ayr United v Dundee United
Cowdenbeath v Arbroath
Dumbarton v Hamilton
Forfar v Dunfermline
Morton v Queen's Park
Stenhousemuir v Strling
St. Johnstone v Kilmarock

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Arsenal, Bolton, Sunderland, Huddersfield, Nottm. Forest, Bristol City, Ipswich, Crewe, Gateshead, Port Vale.

FOUR AWAY: Burnley, Plymouth, Bristol Rovers, Oldham.

THREE DRAWS: Manchester United v Preston, Reading v Coventry, Rochdale v Barrow.

JUNIOR PARTNER



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Former Town player, Willie Davies, given the opportunity of the Huddersfield Town on his return to Kenilworth-road, shakes hands with the Town's skipper, Sid Owen. R606111