

HUDDERSFIELD HAVE THE EDGE

BUT TOWN'S EFFORT STILL GOES ON

Spell Of 20 Minutes Caused Forest Downfall

By Chiltern

For all practical purposes, Huddersfield have the edge over the Town in the race to accompany into the First Division Sheffield United, who now look certain to land the prize.

Huddersfield hold what is virtually a two-points lead in view of their superior goal average, and of their remaining three matches, two are at home, against Fulham and Plymouth, and their only away game is at Rotherham. Not an easy programme, but if they take five points from those games, the Town's hopes will be sunk even if they do not drop another point.

Matches the Town still have to play are with Everton, Brentford and Doncaster (away), and at home, so the dice does seem very much loaded in the Huddersfield direction.

However, the feeling at Kenilworth-road at the moment is that there is life there is hope. The fans can count on the Town for an all-out effort during the next fortnight.

It is, there is the possibility Huddersfield will fall from the top and it came as a disappointment to the Town on Saturday when West Ham had failed to keep the Huddersfield progress. We shall keep pegging away," said Dolly Duncan's comment at the finish.

Like A Dog Chasing Its Own Tail

As they will, but the Town's present position is very much that of a dog chasing its own tail. As they may go, they seem to get no nearer to the objective, but there is no feeling of despair at Kenilworth-road.

Nottingham Forest were disposed of in summary enough fashion on Saturday and, inevitably, when the fans see one of their teams beaten so completely, their minds hark back to the disastrous home matches in Doncaster and Southampton and reflect on how invaluable the points would have been at Kenilworth.

So there has never been a feeling that did not make some sense.

20 Minutes Spell Blasted The Forest

WHAT was expected to be a thriller on Saturday, did not live up to expectations, but con-

ditions were difficult and both teams found the lively ball a problem.

The Town set about the task in the more workmanlike fashion and there was no earthly doubt that they were the superior team.

What put them on top was a grand spell of football for about 20 minutes immediately before the interval during which they scored twice and might very well have doubled their lead, for they exposed the limitations of the Forest defence.

A Watkins Nod Did The Trick

WHEN the Town took the lead, 28 minutes had gone and it was Watkins who obtained the all-important first goal when he jumped high to a well-placed free-kick by Jones to nod the ball through as Walker went up for it.

Before that, there had been few real scoring attempts, but the Town pressure mounted after that and the Forest goal had some lucky escapes.

One of these came when Mitchell had a shot which the Town players said afterwards was bound for the net. Turner, close up to goal, rightly tried to make certain, but he spooned the ball over the bar.

Quick Movement Brought Fine Goal

CONSOLATION for Mitchell came in the 39th minute when he increased the lead with a great goal, laid on for him in brilliant style by Pye.

It was in a quick break when, from his own half, Pye pushed the ball low down the middle between two Forest defenders. Mitchell raced through the gap



WALLY SHANKS

back on first-team duty after a long spell on the injured list, played as well as ever and completed a strong half-back line.

with the ball at his feet and drove it firmly into the net as Walker advanced.

A good goal this and so was the fact that compensated in some measure for the dullness of the second half to which the tactics adopted by the Forest defence contributed in large measure.

Davies Took His Chance Brilliantly

THERE were only two minutes left when Mitchell came racing through, but delayed his shot a split second too long.

The ball went over to the right was returned to the goal-mouth and Davies raced on to it through a gap in the defence and drove it low and hard into the corner of the net.

While this was going on, Mitchell was lying prone with an injured ankle a fact that caused some anxiety because of the trouble the winger has had in this direction this season.

However, afterwards, the trainer said that it was only a knock on the bone and nothing to worry about.

Slow Handclap For Forest's Tactics

THOSE 20 minutes in the first half saved the game from complete drabness and the Forest tried the patience of the crowd after the interval by the monotonous way in which they operated the offside trap.

Effective it may have been in keeping down the score, but stoppage after stoppage reduced the game almost to a standstill and the spectators showed their lack of appreciation by giving the Forest bouts of slow handclaps.

Sometimes the Town forwards were caught in the trap only a few yards inside the Forest half and, while one was left with the feeling that the Town should have been able to combat it more

successfully, there was also the fact that this style was not likely to get the Forest out of trouble.

Town Were Worth Their Handsome Win

CERTAINLY, the Forest attack with Moore in the middle during the second half, looked a more potent force than it had previously, but the times when a goal seemed likely were few.

One great save by Baynham from Capel defeated one of their best efforts and, just before that, Collindridge missed what was probably the best chance that came their way.

In the end the Town were worth their clear-cut margin, mainly because of that fine 20 minutes spell and also because their defence was more sound and their forwards were more dangerous.

Successful Return Of Shanks

THIS was a rather disappointing Forest display, especially in view of their run of eight matches without defeat.

Never did they seem potential winners and, without Ardron, their attack was a thing of bits and pieces.

Return of Shanks after his long absence, combined with the move of Owen back to centre half, and the inclusion again of Jones, gave the Town defence a more compact look.

Shanks was as busy and hard-working as ever and came through what must have been a severe test for him with colours flying.

Afterwards, it was reported that he had had no trouble with the ankle that has handicapped him for so long.

Owen's Tight Grip On Leverton

SO effectively did Owen blot Leverton out of the game in the first half, that the Forest's liveliest forward, Moore, was moved to the leadership after the interval and although he caused Owen more concern than he had had earlier, he did not seriously bother the centre-half.

To complete the "old firm" middle line, which was as strong as ever it was, was Morton, decisive in everything he did with the result that Capel, who has been one of the stars of the Forest front line, did not shine on this occasion.

Sound Work By The Full-Backs

ONLY criticism that could be levelled at Jones was that he sometimes waited for Collindridge to gain possession of the ball when the obvious policy was to go in to meet it.

This did not produce anything in the nature of disaster and, otherwise, there was cool distinction about the work of the right-back and many precise clearances that always sought to use the ball.

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 3

Watkins, Mitchell, Davies

NOTTINGHAM FOREST 0

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Jones, Pemberton; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Pye, Watkins, Mitchell.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST: Walker; Thomas, Hutchinson; French, Gager, Burditt; Moore, Martin, Leverton, Capel, Collindridge.

Referee: R. E. Smith, Newport. Attendance: 18,599.

Pemberton turned in another good exhibition, even if his kicking was a bit awry at times, but he was completely reliable and calm and collected under pressure.

Inside Men Did Not Settle Down

ONCE again, Baynham impressed with the sureness with which he cut out high centres from either wing and there was not the slightest suggestion of a blemish during an afternoon when he could not complain of being overworked.

So the defence kept a blank sheet and deserved to do so.

The forward line was apt to be a bit spasmodic, mainly because neither Turner nor Watkins really settled down to the conditions with which they were faced.

Perhaps a little more came from Watkins in his quiet, unassuming way, but the inside-forward play as a whole was not effective.

Pye Kept Gager On Tenterhooks

IT was left to Pye to do much of the prompting and to stand out as the most polished forward on the field.

Gager found that he had his hands full in marking the leader, who kept the centre-half very much on tenterhooks with his clever footwork and quick bursts of speed.

Mitchell gave a bright display too, and in his directness, showed the right idea. He could have been given more of the ball and the same applied in the case of Davies, who earned marks for the way he fought for possession.

He might have been a little more direct but, all the same, this was a very useful showing.

Missed Chances Cost Reserves A Point

FROM Northampton, the Town Reserves came away with the feeling that they could have registered a fairly comfortable victory had they made the most of their scoring chances.

Moore and Cullen each missed from very close range and the only goal that came their way, from Moore, was something of a scrambled affair.

In the end, the Town had to be content with a point from a 1-1 draw, but they were the better footballing team in conditions made more difficult by a gusty wind that played tricks with the light ball.

"A" Team Players Did Well

FULL-BACKS Cooke and Abernethy did very well in a defence that held the home forwards and Smith was the best of a useful middle line.

Although Scott had spells of brilliance, the more consistent wing was that formed by two players who have been mostly in the "A" team this season, Allen and Thompson.

The latter was out of position at outside-left, but showed an aptitude for it by getting the ball across promptly.

Cullen spent much clever work by wandering into the middle too much and Moore had just a fair game.

To-morrow night the Reserves are at home to Leicester City.

2,000 Saw "A" Team's Stout Fight

WHAT surprised the Town "A" at Tonbridge was the size of the attendance in view of the fact that a Southern League match against Worcester had finished only an hour before their game began.

There were 2,000 in the afternoon and 2,000 turned up for the evening match. Tonbridge won 2-0 and thus made certain of the Metropolitan League championship, but the Town, who included three newcomers, Folwell, Bell and Loasby made them fight all the way, and there was no score at half-time.

Bell was outstanding at centre-half and the team as a whole put up stout resistance against strong opposition.

Chiltern's Forecasts

INTERNATIONAL MATCH

England v Scotland

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

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

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Celtic v East Fife
Falkirk v Hearts
Motherwell v Aberdeen
Partick v Airdrieonians
Queen of South v Dundee

DIVISION "B"

Albion v Forfar
Cowdenbeath v Ayr United
Dundee United v Kilmarnock
Dunfermline v Queen's Park
Morton v Arbroath

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Arsenal, Portsmouth, Blackpool, Sheffield Utd., Swansea, Bournemouth, Newport, Northampton, Bradford City, Crewe.

FOUR AWAY: Tottenham, Luton, Millwall, Oldham.

THREE DRAWS: Derby v Manchester City, Nottm Forest v Birmingham, Crystal Palace v Coventry.

LUTON TOWN F.C.

FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15th

Combination Cup

LUTON RESERVES

v.

LEICESTER CITY RESERVES

Kick-off 5.30 p.m.

ADMISSION: Centre Stand 2/-; Wing Stand and Enclosure 1/6. Boys 1/-; Bobbers' Stand 1/3. Boys 10d. (separate entrance); Ground (not covered) 1/-, Boys 9d.



Clarks

SANDAL WEEK

new Clarks Sandals for everyone

but please come soon—they go like wildfire

See the Special Display at

WHITE (Luton) LTD.

26, 28 & 30 MANCHESTER STREET

LUTON

Est. 1860