

BEING BEHIND DOES NOT WORRY TOWN

Mitchell's Goals Gained Two Points At Derby

By Chiltern

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To be in the position of having to hit back after conceding the first goal is no novelty for the Town, nor is it a matter of much concern, judging by the results they have achieved recently.

In six of the last seven games, including those floodlit friendlies with Watford and Grimsby, this has happened to the Town but, in each case, they have avoided defeat.

They did more than merely save the day at Derby on Saturday; they coasted to a victory that was more comfortable than the bare score would indicate and it could have ended with a far more convincing score in their favour.

That this did not happen was due to a mixture of bad luck and a failure to round off some cleverly planned raids in the second half.

Any team that has four goals disallowed for offside has reasonable grounds for complaining that the luck was against them, especially as each of the four called for what must have been a hairsbreadth decision.

None of these was one of those cases we often see of a player planting the ball into the back of the net after the whistle has gone.

Against each decision, the Town players thought they had justifiable cause for complaint and it must have been a considerable relief to them when they at last obtained a goal that was allowed to stand.

MITCHELL'S CLEVERLY TAKEN GOAL

That came after 48 minutes when MITCHELL cleverly got down to his foot a chest high cross from Pye and carefully placed the ball into the far corner of the net well out of the reach of Paul.

It was a timely success in that it put the Town on level terms, for WILKINS had given Derby the lead after 20 minutes when the ball went off his shin into the net from a centre by Parry after McLaren had jumped for it and missed.

After reaching equality, the Town never looked back and they exposed weaknesses in the Derby defence and in their general plan of laying the off-side trap.

Not that the latter did not have its successes afterwards, for Turner again turned to see the linesman's flag raised after having firmly driven the ball into the back of the net. He had previously had a goal disallowed as had Pye and Mitchell.

In the end, the Town triumphed even though things did not really run at all kindly for them. For the latter stages of the second half, they had Turner limping on the right wing after a knock in the thigh, but despite this they secured the deciding goal.

For this, 13 minutes from the end, they were indebted again to the marksmanship of MITCHELL, who made a bee-line for goal and crashed the ball past Paul with terrific force.

On the balance of play, the Town were deserved winners. Derby had their chances in the first half when they showed quite commendable directness but few came their way afterwards when the Town defence was very sound.

Keystone of it was the rugged, hard-tackling Morton, always ready to stem a dangerous situation, and he injured an ankle

during the first half in making a desperate, last-ditch tackle.

That the home left wing came into the picture only spasmodically was due to some close marking by Dunne and Shanks, both of whom came through with full credit, and Streten, in goal, was in top form.

Some trouble was caused by the County right-wing pair before the interval, mainly because McLaren was given too much scope and because Aherne could not take a grip on Parry.

Later, Watkins changed his tactics and largely blotted McLaren out of the game, with the result that Aherne had a happier second half against Parry.

Best of the forwards' work came after the interval, when they moved the ball more quickly, and Pye was the man who caused the Derby defence most trouble.

Always he was seeking to use the ball to advantage, and though he deserved to crown his display with a goal, his finishing was not deadly enough on this occasion.

From Davies there was a repetition of his recent much-improved form, and he found quite a lively partner in Turner until injury cut down the effectiveness of the inside man.

The left wing, not thrustful enough in the first half, improved considerably when Cummins began to part with the ball without holding it unnecessarily.

But the match-winner was Mitchell, who worried the young right-back, Patrick, when he began to take the ball up to him.

DERBY COUNTY: Paul; Patrick, Savin; Walker, Oliver, Mays; Parry, McLaren, Wilkins, Dunn, Law.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Watkins; Davies, Turner, Pye, Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: H. L. Broadhurst, Atherstone.