

FULFILMENT OF THAT LATENT PROMISE

Town's Fine Football In Great Win At Doncaster

By Chiltern

DONCASTER ROVERS 1, LUTON TOWN 3

Justice was done at Belle Vue, Doncaster, on Saturday in that the honours went to the team with the more ideas, the more constructive skill and the greater ability to make the most of scoring chances.

The Town went into the match expecting a tough struggle, and how right they were, for the Rovers were doughty opponents who did not give up the fight even when they were three goals down.

For some weeks, the Town have been promising to settle down into a first-class combination, but just missing complete fulfilment, but here it was in this match in which they were a team without an obvious weakness.

Against a team that put its trust to a large extent in speed of movement and straightforward methods, the Town's ordered, clever football offered a marked contrast and proved an interesting trial of strength of two vastly differing methods of approach.

The first half produced a battle in keeping with the importance of the occasion for, virtually, there were four points at stake, and although Doncaster missed a couple of relatively easy chances, a lot of goals did not seem likely, so well did both defences play.

Offenders for the Rovers were Lawlor and Harrison, both of whom shot wide when left with only Streten to beat, and the Town's nearest approach to a goal came when a header by Turner was turned on to the bar by Hardwick.

EARLY BLOW

BY MITCHELL

So, the interval was reached with the score sheet blank and both teams reasonably satisfied, though I thought that the thrusts of the Rovers' forwards made them look a little more dangerous potentially.

In the first minute after the resumption, the Town struck a blow that went a long way towards assuring them of these valuable points.

This was the sort of match in which the team obtaining the first goal gains an inestimable advantage and it fell to the Town almost before the home crowd knew the play was on again.

Straight from the kick-off, Davies intercepted a ball which went on to Pye, who slipped through a grand pass down towards the inside-left position where MITCHELL fastened on to it.

In making a bee-line for goal, he was strongly challenged by Makepeace, held off his charge and drove the ball hard and low out of Hardwick's reach.

So, Mitchell kept up his remarkably consistent scoring record for the Town, for this was the fifth consecutive match in which he has found the net.

A goal against the Rovers on their own ground is an unusual event but, certainly, neither they nor their supporters were prepared for the happenings that began when 19 minutes of the second half had ticked away.

Then, a long dribble by Cummins, enabled him to work his way along the goal-line to make a centre of awkward height that Hardwick could not reach.

It looked as if GRAHAM, standing near the far post, tried to hook the ball for a corner, mindful, obviously, of the presence of Turner.

GRAND GOAL FROM PYE

To the left-back's dismay, the ball went into his own net off the inside of the post and complete glumness settled over the ground in the next minute when a crisp movement ended with Turner pulling the ball back for PYE to score a grand goal.

That seemed the end of everything for the Rovers but, to their credit, they fought back and were rewarded after 68 minutes when LAWLOR, at full-length, got his head to a shot by Tindill and diverted it into the net.

That was the shot in the arm they needed and, for perhaps 10 minutes, they tested the quality of the Town defence, which was steady under pressure, and, helped by some spectacular saves by Streten, came through the danger period without too many hair-raising experiences.

Failing to obtain another quick goal, the Rovers wilted, were thrown back on the defensive again by some copybook football by the Town and although they came again strongly at the end, were pushed back without a great deal of trouble.

This was a grand exhibition by the Town team as a team, with the defence close-knit and covering splendidly.

The nippy Harrison was scarcely allowed any scope at all by Owen, and Morton, despite the thrusts of the bustling McMorran, and Watkins, were indefatigable and most successful at wing-half.

Nor was there much chance for the Rovers' wingers to accomplish a lot against the marking and good positional play of Dunne and Aherne, who were always well on top of the job.

Most impressive, too, was the way in which Streten coped with everything that came his way. Much of it consisted of daring snatching of the ball from the feet of oncoming forwards but, in the second half, he pulled off at least three saves that were in the sensational class.

Encouraging feature of the forwards' display was that there was quicker and more accurate movement of the ball, with Pye, lying deeper than is his wont, doing much of the scheming in midfield and, at the same time, getting himself out of the clutches of Paterson.

Pye's distribution of the ball was first class, and there was all-round strength in the front line, with Davies and Mitchell fast, incisive wingers, Cummins doing a tremendous amount of work with marked success, and Turner always a danger as one of the spearheads of the front line.

DONCASTER ROVERS:
Hardwick; Makepeace, Graham; Brown, Paterson, Teasdale; Tindill, Lawlor, Harrison, McMorran, Walker.

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

Referee: R. J. Leafe, Nottingham. Attendance: 18,273.