

TOWN'S WAS A HARD LUCK STORY

WERE THE BETTER TEAM BY A MILE"

Leicester Manager Paid Them That Tribute

By Chiltern

Leicester manager, Norman Bullock, went up to Dally Duncan after the match at Filbert-street on Saturday, shook him by the hand and said: "The better team, by a mile, lost to-day."

And that is as good a summing up as there could be of a match in which the Town dictated the way things should go for long periods, settled down in conditions that were far from easy to play some of the most assured football they have produced this season and, generally, made the City look like a lot of hacks opposed to classic horses.

After all that, the Town came away without even the consolation of a solitary point, the result represented the complete travesty of justice that could be imagined.

There will be matches in which Town will not play half so well as this and will still be awarded with a handsome victory, and there was never any doubt about which team looked the likely promotion material. The unfortunate factor, though, that points count in this struggle for the Division I prize, the two that Leicester scraped themselves in such fortunate manner took them back to the top of the League.

Consequences Need Not Be Serious

At the same time, the reverse pushed the Town down a pace, but the setback need not have serious consequences, for they are still only three points behind the joint leaders, and if they can reproduce this form consistently in the weeks to come, that gap will be whittled down quickly.

This sort of football must bring results eventually, and the forwards rarely have the sort of bad luck that attended their scoring efforts in this match.

One cheering thing about it all is that there was a greater willingness to shoot than has been the case in most recent matches and the line as a whole had the look of one that will be right along the goals soon.

MacEwan Settled Down Splendidly

THOSE who thought that the introduction of MacEwan into the League scene with so little experience of what it entailed was a bit too soon, and was a gambler's throw, were confounded the way in which this youngster settled down.

days when shots that deserved to score, just somehow or another, failed to do so.

A few chances were missed, admittedly; how could it be otherwise with the ball bouncing about? But the forwards did enough to expect that goals would come their way.

Penalty Decision Was Very Harsh

THAT things should run against them so consistently throughout was a great deal less than they deserved, and one of the biggest slices of misfortune came in the 15th minute, when the referee surprised even the Leicester supporters by awarding a penalty against Morton.

Taking into account all the circumstances surrounding the incident, this could only go into the category of a harsh decision.

Morton and Hines went for a bouncing ball together, a few yards inside the penalty area, well to the right of the goal.

There was no hint of danger from the move for Hines never had possession of the ball, which was breaking away from him, and he had no hope of getting in a shot.

Lead Lasted For Only Seven Minutes

MORTON tried to chest down the ball which bounced up and struck him on the upper part of the arm.

Clearly, there was no intention of him trying to play the ball with his arm or hand but the referee pointed to the penalty spot immediately and that powerful hitter of a ball, Rowley, does not need a second invitation to crack the ball home from the 12 yards mark.

This was a severe jolt to the Town, for they had made a promising start and had looked a lot more likely than the City to be the first to lead.

However, they were level seven minutes later when Gillies hesitated long enough in making up his mind what to do about a through pass from Cummins, for Turner to gain possession.

Panic Measures In Leicester's Defence

COOLLY, he controlled the ball and placed it low into the far corner of the net well out of the reach of the advancing Anderson.

It was after this that the Town really took charge of the situation and for a long time, the City defence was reduced to the use of panic measures and were glad to kick anywhere to relieve the concerted pressure.

Shots from Davies and Turner were deflected by defenders and from each, Anderson happened to be in the right place to save powerful drives with a good deal of difficulty.

Had the Town been two up by half-time, it would have been no more than they deserved and they continued to be much the better side in the second half.

Anderson Did A Rescue Act

ANDERSON again rescued Leicester with a double save from Turner who swung on to the ball with a terrific force and MacEwan was unlucky with a drive made first-time on the half turn.

Shouts of "Goal" were beginning in Luton throats when Davies beat Anderson only for Milburn to kick off the goal-line and several other scoring attempts were beaten down by City defenders packing their own penalty area.

All through there seemed no other possible result but a win to the Town but with only seven minutes left, came the shock of a goal to Leicester who previously had never even suggested that they were capable of breaking down the Town defence.

Scrambling Affair Was The Winner

A SCRAMBLING affair it was, too, with the scorer being Small, former Town winger, who had a most unproductive match.

A somewhat haphazard forward pass sent the ball bouncing awkwardly into the Town penalty area.

A couple of attempts to clear were defeated by the liveliness of the ball, and eventually Rowley headed the ball on. Small came racing in and just got his head to the ball as Aherne dashed across.

The Leicester luck held and the ball, which looked like going wide, bounced goalwards off the inside of the post with Streten's dive just failing to enable him to reach it and Dunne's attempt to avert the disaster abortive, too.

Aherne Had To Move To Outside-Left

IN the scramble Aherne received a gash on the top of his head that had to be stitched afterwards.

FOR THE RECORDS

LEICESTER CITY 2
Rowley (pen), Small.

LUTON TOWN 1
Turner

LEICESTER CITY: Anderson; Milburn, Jackson; Baldwin, Gillies, Russell; Griffiths, Morris, Hines, Rowley, Small.

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

Referee: J. C. Pollard, Thornton Heath, Attendance 31,782.

and Small came out of it holding his head, too.

Rather than take Aherne off for immediate stitching, which would have meant no further part in the game for him, he was switched to outside-left, with Watkins taking up the left-back position and Cummins dropping back.

What with the lateness of this shock goal and the enforced changes, there was little hope of the Town being able to rescue a point which would have been invaluable to them, but even that would not have done them justice.

Tributes To Quality Of Town's Football

TRIBUTES after the match on all sides were being paid to the high-class football the Town played in conditions that were not conducive to it, and there was some brilliant work from them.

With both Turner and Cummins in grand form, and getting a good response from the wingers and the bustling MacEwan, the line always held potential threat of goals, and had Turner's luck with his shooting taken a turn for the better in this match, he would have been the match-winner.

Cummins had a bit of a rough passage against Baldwin, who brought him down heavily several times, and the right-half had his name taken by the referee.

Half-Backs Were In Tremendous Form

ALWAYS, Cummins was up again, coming back for more, and he was a tremendous worker.

Davies worried Jackson such a lot that several times Milburn came across to help out, and Mitchell was nearer to his best form than he has been recently.

Much of the Town's superiority could be traced to the strength of their half-back line which took a grip on Leicester's famous in-

side trio, and held the mastery in midfield for long periods.

Before the match summing-up was that Shanks held one of the important key positions in opposing Rowley, and that the inside-left was so little in the game was a big tribute to the gallant way in which Shanks tackled his task.

Morton Barred Way Down The Middle

LITTLE was seen of Morris, either, thanks to the close attentions and hard tackling of Watkins, while Hines had an unhappy time in facing Morton, who again showed that the transition from right-half to centre-half worries him not a jot.

The way down the middle was closed effectively, nor did Leicester have any more success down the wings, where Aherne mastered Griffiths from the start, and Dunne matched Small for speed and used his positional sense to see to it that the winger was almost blotted out.

Dunne did not kick the lively ball so accurately as did Aherne, but that was the only slight blemish on a very sound display.

For Streten, this was a quieter afternoon than he probably expected, for there were few shots of any merit from the ragged Leicester forwards.

Reserves Were Deserved Winners

LUCK was not on the side of the Town Reserves on Saturday but, even so, they were stronger than Charlton Reserves and they thoroughly deserved their 3-2 victory.

In the opening stages it was all Luton, yet Charlton scored first through Lumley in what was their first really dangerous raid.

It was not until five minutes before the interval that the Town equalised through McGuffie, but they should have taken the lead a moment later when they were awarded a penalty for a foul on Scott, but Downie, who otherwise had a very good game, failed to convert the spot-kick.

Scott's Injury Caused Switches

AN own goal by the Charlton right-half Chamberlain, and a goal from Scott gave Luton deserved lead and Ryan took advantage of a defensive misunderstanding to reduce the visitors' arrears late in the game.

Scott was injured in the second half and as a result the Town constantly switched their forward formation.

Scott finished on the left wing, but previously he had had short spells at centre-forward and outside-right.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

Arsenal v Cardiff C.
Blackpool v Sunderland
Bolton W. v Preston N.E.
Chelsea v Wolves
Liverpool v Charlton Ath.
Manchester U. v Tottenham H.
Middlesbrough v Huddersfield
Newcastle Utd v Burnley
Portsmouth v Manchester C.
Sheffield Utd v Aston Villa
West Brom. v Sheffield Wed.

DIVISION II

Birmingham C. v West Ham
Blackburn R. v Oldham Ath.
Brentford v Hull C.
Bristol R. v Notts Co.
Derby Co. v Everton
Doncaster R. v Bury
Leeds Utd v Lincoln C.
Luton T. v Stoke C.
Nottm. Forest v Fulham
Plymouth A. v Leicester C.
Swansea T. v Rotherham Utd

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v Bradford C.
Barnsley v Gateshead
Bradford v Workington
Carlisle Utd v Chesterfield
Chester v Southport

Crewe Alex. v York C.
Darlington v Hartlepool Utd
Grimsby T. v Barrow
Hullfax T. v Tranmere R.
Port Vale v Scunthorpe Utd
Rochdale v Wrexham
Stockport Co. v Mansfield T.

SCOTTISH CUP, 2ND ROUND

Albion R. v Dundee
Berwick v Ayr Utd
Brechin C. v Hamilton
Coldstream v Raith R.
Duns v Aberdeen
Falkirk v Celtic
Fraserburgh v Hearts
Hibernian v Clyde
Morton v Cowdenbeath
Motherwell v Dunfermline
Peebles v Buckie Thistle
Queen of South v Forfar Ath.
Rangers v Kilmarnock
Stirling A. v Arbroath
Tarriff v Partick T.
Third Lanark or Stenhousemuir v Deveron V.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

St. Mirren v East Fife
DIVISION "B"

Dumbarton v St. Johnstone

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Arsenal, Portsmouth, West Brom. Blackburn, Doncaster, Exeter, Millwall, Carlisle, Grimsby, Port Vale.

FOUR AWAY.—Huddersfield, Everton, Bristol C., Bradford.

THREE DRAWS.—Bolton, Preston, Plymouth v Leicester, Gillingham v Northampton.

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