

WON, DESPITE MISSED CHANCES

COUNTY ALLOWED TO ESCAPE LIGHTLY

Unconvincing Town Were Below Their Hull Form

By Chiltern

Unconvincing though they were, mainly because of the number of scoring chances they allowed to slip by, the Town picked up full points on Saturday when they completed a "double" over Notts County for the second consecutive season.

However, the Town did not leave the satisfying feeling at the end that was brought about by their display at Hull the previous week, and the fact remains that they are still playing better football away from home than before their own supporters.

Manager Dally Duncan still contends that the cramped nature of the Kenilworth-road enclosure does not suit his forwards.

"It doesn't matter what sort of formation we put out, they always look a better line on an away ground," was his comment afterwards.

Certainly the Town are not now the power at home that they used to be, but there is the factor that they are working out their openings and missing them, most unaccountably at times.

Because of this, they are making things difficult for themselves and, consistently, for this reason, they are finding themselves faced with the same sort of struggle to win they had on Saturday.

Must Learn To Take The Easy Chances

VERY easily, the County might have gone home with their average seriously damaged if Turner had only found the shooting boots, which he has missed for so long, he could have had a "hat-trick" for himself.

Before the Town can really be reckoned with as a power in attack, they must rid themselves of this pernicious habit of missing simple opportunities inside the penalty area, for only a limited number of such chances crop up during the course of a match.

Failure to accept the snap openings accounts for the number of narrow wins of a scrambling nature we have seen at Kenilworth this season and for the fact that the goal average looks so unflattering.

Turner Problem Is A Thorny One

THE problem posed by Turner is a thorny one for the manager, for the inside-right is cast in the role of opportunist, is taking position well enough, but seems completely unable to find the goal when it comes to finishing.

Twice he struck Bradley with his shot when left with only the goalkeeper to beat and there seems to be a sort of magnetism about goalkeepers that draws the ball to them these days when Turner is having a shot at goal.

The remedy is either a spell in the Reserves to give him a chance to regain his confidence there, or retention in the first team in the hope that there will be a sudden change and that he will begin scoring with his former alacrity.

Barracking Has Never Been Helpful

THERE can be only a limited duration for the second course, for the line is crying out for goals, and already a section of the crowd is beginning to "get at" this player.

Barracking never helped anybody out of a bad spell and is the biggest confidence destroyer in the world, as we have seen with others on the Town books in the past.

Not that Turner is the only offender in this matter of missed chances, but at the moment he is the biggest one and the spotlight is turned more brightly on him because they are mistakes that the crowd cannot possibly miss.

Spoiling Tactics Of County's Defence

WHETHER or not this reconstructed forward line can settle down is something that only the future can prove, but they did not look the assertive, fast-moving line they did at Hull.

Yet there were times when they produced some good football, and that was not the easiest thing in the world against the spoiling tactics of the County defence.

There was much pushing, shoving and obstruction, not all of which was checked by the referee, and Shanks was the victim of a

tackle to which "over-vigorous" would be a polite description.

Jack Taylor Scored Against Former Team

WHEN he was helped off the field five minutes before the interval, it seemed odds-on the Town having to struggle for the rest of the match with only ten men, and it was during the time of their handicap that the County obtained their only goal.

Jack Taylor's name went down as being responsible for it, but he will rarely have a more simple chance, for he had merely to tap it over the line as it came across from Wylie after he and Crookes had worked their way down the left wing, with the Town defence backing away.

Intensive Treatment Gots Shanks Back

THAT came a minute before the interval at which stage, the County certainly did not deserve to be on level terms, for the Town's lead should have amounted to more than the single goal cleverly headed through by Davies from Cullen's centre after exactly half an hour.

Discussion during the interval mainly centred on whether Shanks would be able to resume, but intensive treatment during the break enabled him to come back—at centre-forward in the first instance.

In addition to immediate hardening of the thigh muscle following the knock, he had quite a nasty gash on his thigh and considerable bruising.

Downie Came To The Rescue Again

ONCE he became warmed up, his limp became less noticeable and, after five minutes, he was able to return to his original position.

Now, began the fight to regain the lead and, with chances still being squandered in what seemed to be reckless fashion, the situation did not seem any too hopeful until Downie came to the rescue again by scoring for the third consecutive match and taking his tally into double figures.

DOMINOES

L.V. TABLES

DIVISION I "A"

	P	W	P
Globe	17	12	24
White Lion	17	11	22
Bull	17	11	22
Goat	17	11	22
Moulders	17	11	22
White Hart	16	10	20
Four Horseshoes	17	9	18
Phoenix	16	8	16
Bewery Tap	17	8	16
Foresters	17	7	14
Blue Lion	17	7	14
Volunteer	16	6	12
Windsor Castle	17	6	12
Hearts of Oak	17	5	10
Lea Bridge	17	3	6

DIVISION II "A"

	P	W	P
Regents	18	13	26
Fountain	18	12	24
Richard III	18	12	24
King Edward	18	11	22
Highlanders	18	11	22
Royal Oak	18	11	22
Stag	18	10	20
Marquis of Bute	18	10	20
Horse and Jockey	18	9	18
Princess Alexandra	18	8	16
Butchers	18	6	12
Queen's Hotel	18	5	10
Standard	17	4	8
Bute Arms	18	2	4

DIVISION III "A"

	P	W	P
Eight Bells	15	12	24
Harrow	15	10	20
Midland Inn	14	8	16
Painters	14	8	16
Plough	13	7	14
North Star	12	6	12
First and Last	14	6	12
Railway Inn	14	5	10
Yorkshire Grey	13	5	10
King Harry	14	4	8
Buckleys	14	4	8

DIVISION I "B"

	P	W	P
Windsor Castle	17	12	24
Moulders	17	11	22
Blue Lion	17	10	20
White Hart	17	10	20
Globe	17	9	18
Goat	17	9	18
White Lion	17	8	16
Bull	17	8	16
Bewery Tap	17	8	16
Hearts of Oak	16	7	14
Four Horseshoes	16	7	14
Lea Bridge	17	7	14
Foresters	17	5	10
Phoenix	16	4	8
Volunteer	16	4	8

DIVISION II "B"

	P	W	P
Fountain	18	14	28
Queen's Hotel	18	12	24
Princess Alexandra	18	11	22
King Edward	18	10	20
Bute Arms	18	10	20
Standard	18	9	18
Marquis of Bute	18	8	16
Stag	18	8	16
Regents	18	8	16
Richard III	18	8	16
Butchers	18	8	16
Highlanders	18	6	12
Royal Oak	18	4	8
Horse and Jockey	18	2	4

DIVISION III "B"

	P	W	P
Harrow	15	11	22
Midland Inn	14	9	18
First and Last	14	9	18
Plough	13	8	16
King Harry	13	7	14
Eight Bells	15	6	12
Painters	14	5	10
Yorkshire Grey	14	5	10
Railway Inn	14	4	8
Buckleys	14	4	8

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 2

Davies, Downie

NOTTS COUNTY 1

Taylor

LUTON TOWN: Stretton; Jones, Aherne; Morton, Hall, Shanks; Cullen, Turner, Scott, Downie, Davies.

NOTTS COUNTY: Bradley; Southwell, Deans; Adamson, Leuty, Chatham; Coole, Taylor, Johnston, Wylie, Crookes.

Referee: R. J. Burgess. Reading Attendance: 14,623.

Again it was a header from a Cullen centre that brought success.

No Argument About Legitimacy Of This

THIS time, Downie got right above the ball to head it sharply downwards. Bradley stayed some of its progress, but could not get hold of the ball and it crossed the line despite the efforts of a defender to scramble it away and, in any case, Scott was on the spot to make certain that there was no repetition of the argument that developed against Stoke.

Other than a quick dash almost immediately afterwards that caught the Town defence in a tangle and ended with Crookes shooting into the side net, the County did not look as if they had the forward power to save the match.

Victory Should Have Been More Clear-Cut

THERE could be no disputing the merit of the Town's win—and I do not think that anyone was inclined to—but the nagging worry that was left was that it should have been a good deal more clear-cut.

What we should not lose sight of, however, was that it was a victory and that with two in succession behind them, the chance remains for the Town to stage a real revival.

Most constructive forward on view was Downie, now revealing the form that put him in the five figure class and, apart from a tendency, most marked in the first half, to use the back pass, he made a notable contribution by his accurate distribution of the ball and the quality of his positional play.

Marks For Scott's Fighting Spirit

SCOTT gets full marks from me for his pluck and fighting spirit which meant that Leuty could never afford to relax for a moment.

He chased every forlorn hope, and there were many of these because the best of support did not come his way.

Whether he is to provide the answer to the leadership problem is something else that is contained in the future and I would like to see him shooting more but, in the meantime, his fighting spirit is a considerable asset.

Another who has this quality is Davies who, however, fell away in the second half through not using the ball well and during this period he failed to get it across consistently with his left foot, but

it must be remembered that he is playing out of position.

Accurate Centres From Cullen

AN obstacle to the wiles of Cullen that was insurmountable at times was provided by Deans, but this did not prevent the winger from making a number of accurate centres and this put him in the more than useful category and laid the foundation for the victory.

About the defence, there was little cause for complaint, with Hall, always using safety first tactics, settling down quickly to take a firm grip on Johnston, from whom little danger came.

Nor was there a great deal of threat from the inside men although Morton gave Wylie more room in which to operate in the first half than he does normally.

Solid Quality About Defence

THAT apart, Morton was in his most forceful mood and Shanks, too, did splendidly, especially in view of the handicap under which he played for the whole of the second half.

From Aherne, there was one of his best displays, despite the nippiness of Coole who showed a liking at times for veering into the middle.

Aherne was cool and sound, with his kicking an object lesson and, curiously enough, Jones who usually excels in this, seemed unable to find his touch in this match.

There were times, too, when he was inclined to give Crookes too much room, but, about the defence as a whole, there was a solid quality that was backed up by Stretton, who made a couple of first-class saves at a time when things might have gone badly with the Town had the County scored.

Reserves Missed Chances, Too

FAILURE to accept scoring chances seems to be a common complaint among the Town forwards, for the Reserves suffered from it, too, in losing somewhat unexpectedly by 3-1 at Ipswich on Saturday.

This ended a run of eight matches without defeat in the course of which, they had gained 13 points and brought their first setback since they went down 3-0 at Plymouth on Christmas Day.

A pity this, but the damage is not irreparable since the leaders, West Ham, were beaten by 5-1 at Arsenal, so the championship position remains the same.

Consolation Goal From Mitchell

WITH better marksmanship the Town could have had a winning lead by half-time, but things turned against them afterwards, with the rot beginning when Ipswich were awarded a penalty about which there was a great deal of doubt and from the spot, Dobson obtained the start of a "hat-trick."

When the score was 2-0, Bennett damaged ankle ligaments and had to leave the field. Luton's consolation goal came from Mitchell just before the end and he had always looked the one most likely to score.

With Allen, he was the best of a forward line lacking punch. Baynam, Dunne and Pemberton were the pick of the defence.

Chiltern's Forecasts

F.A. CUP—SIXTH ROUND

Leicester C. v. Preston N.E.
Leyton O. v. Port Vale
Sheffield Wed. v. Bolton W.
West Brom. v. Tottenham H.

DIVISION I

Arsenal v. Charlton Ath.
Aston Villa v. Manchester Utd
Blackpool v. Middlesbrough
Cardiff C. v. Burnley
Huddersfield T. v. Newcastle U.
Sheffield Utd v. Liverpool

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Barnsley v. Accrington S.
Bradford v. Carlisle Utd
Chester v. Chesterfield
Crewe Alex. v. Tranmere R.
Darlington v. Grimsby T.

Gateshead v. Rochdale
Hartlepool Utd v. Stockport Co.
Scunthorpe Utd v. Mansfield T.
Southport v. Bradford C.
Workington v. Wrexham
York C. v. Barrow

SCOTTISH CUP—4th ROUND

Aberdeen v. Hearts
Hamilton v. Celtic
Partick Thistle v. Motherwell
Rangers or Third Lanark v. Berwick R.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Clyde v. Queen of South
East Fife v. Hibernian
Rangers v. Raith R. (provisional)
Stirling A. v. Dundee

DIVISION "B"

Ayr Utd v. Albion R.
Dumbarton v. Arbroath
Dundee Utd v. Alloa
Forfar Ath. v. Morton
Queen's Park v. Dunfermline
Stenhousemuir v. St. Johnstone

OTHER MATCHES

Chelsea v. R.C. Buenos Aires
Oldham Ath. v. Manchester C.
Portsmouth v. St. Mirren

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—West Brom., Arsenal, Blackpool, Blackburn, Everton, Hull, Brighton, Coventry, Barnsley, Gateshead.
FOUR AWAY.—Bolton, Manchester Utd, Birmingham, Bradford C.
THREE DRAWS.—Leyton v. Port Vale, Cardiff v. Burnley, Chester v. Chesterfield.



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