

HAVE PLAYED BETTER AND LOST

A GALLANT DEFENCE SAVED THE TOWN

"How Did We Miss Those Chances?" Asked Lincoln

By Chiltern

Conversation of the Lincoln officials after the match at Sincil Bank on Saturday was strangely reminiscent of the Town's main talking point in recent weeks — "How did we miss those chances?"

There was no doubt that had the City made the best use of their opportunities, the Town's revival which has now brought them five points out of six would have been ended, but they did not and, as the Town know only too painfully well, only goals bring points in this game.

So the Town came away with the thought that for once in a way the luck had been with them and the cause for reflection that there have been a number of occasions this season when they have played far better but have gained no reward.

It was not hard to believe that the fingers of the relegation bogey were lightly touching Lincoln, who brought to the match a robust type of enthusiasm and plenty of fighting spirit which encouraged their supporters in the belief that they will still have Second Division football on this ground next season.

Best Winning Chance Was In First Half

FOR the Town, the best chance of winning came in the first half when the forwards, disappointing, taking the game as a whole, showed some constructive play and had a spell when they produced football a grade above that of which the home attack seemed capable.

During this period, they might easily have taken the lead and so laid the foundation of victory and here was a missed chance by Downie during this vital period.

Put through by a flicked header

from Scott, the inside-left found himself faced by only Lowery, who did the only possible thing left to him and advanced well out of his goal.

Both Teams Had Goals Disallowed

WITH the angle severely narrowed, Downie, I fancy, tried to lob the ball over the goalkeeper's head, but did not get it high enough and it went to Lowery chest high.

Both teams had goals disallowed during the first half. First, Turner hit the ball low into the net from what the referee judged to be an offside position and Gibson found the referee's decision going against him when he hit the ball through after Stretten had just failed to reach a not well directed back pass by Jones.

In the first instance, Lincoln claimed a corner and probably wished that they had not done so, for the referee made this award and stuck to it in the face of home protests.

Second Half Began With A Shock Goal

ON balance, it was reasonably fair that the teams should still

Turner Kept At Centre-Forward

THE experiment of playing Turner at centre-forward was continued for the floodlit match at Millwall last night. Scott was omitted and Pemberton came into the forward line at inside-left, with Downie switching to the other flank.

In defence, Morton and Owen, required for duty in the Combination XI at Amsterdam to-morrow, were replaced by Hall and Smith, with Shanks moving over to right-half.

be level at half-time, for although Lincoln's dash had brought them quite a lot of the play and a number of corners, their shooting was not really menacing.

What we were unprepared for was a goal in the opening minute of the second half of such dramatic suddenness that not a Luton player touched the ball from the time Lincoln kicked off until it was in the back of the net.

First time passing right along the line, beginning with Finch, out on the left wing, carved out an opening for Garvie, who beat Stretten with a hard rising shot and gave Lincoln a psychological advantage of which they tried to make the utmost use.

Stubborn Defence Kept Hope Alive

AFTER that, but for stubborn defensive work, things might have gone badly for the Town, as Lincoln, with a grip in mid-field, crowded on the pressure, and it was as much as the Town could do to prevent a further reverse.

Only occasionally did the Town attack flicker into life, and once Downie was unlucky with a grand shot that went behind off the angle of the bar and post.

Other than that, Lincoln's lead appeared to be in little danger until the 70th minute. Then, over-confidence could have been the cause of the City's downfall, for Green brought the ball right up into the Town's half of the field before losing possession in a tackle by Jones.

Quick Thinking Brought Equaliser

SIZING up the situation quickly, Jones spotted that Davies was unmarked on the far side of the field, due to the negligence of the home defence to cover the gap left by Green's foray.

Out to the winger went a most accurate low pass, which Davies took in his stride and made considerable ground before laying on an opening for Turner, who accepted it brilliantly with a strong, low drive that crossed and beat Lowery to find a billet in the far corner of the net.

Quick thinking brought this goal, and it was yet another pointer to the value of the cross-field pass that the Town did not exploit half enough in this match.

Garvie Missed A Simple Chance

THERE were 20 minutes to go when that happened, and the Town spent the bulk of them coping with Lincoln's determined efforts to regain their lead.

To Luton fans, hopes must have virtually disappeared when Garvie was left bang in front of goal with a chance that it seemed impossible to miss, but he "topped" the ball which rolled gently to a grateful Stretten.

Then came the last shock when, with the last kick of the match, Gibson missed marking his re-appearance as Lincoln's leader by inches with a first-time

shot following a centre from the right.

Turner Might Be The Answer To Problem

SO the Town, not very impressively, maintained their unbeaten record on this ground, and the match did nothing to solve their problems in attack, except for a hint that Turner might well prove more successful at centre-forward than previous attempts to fill this position have been.

Switched there for the second half, he had little chance to do anything of an extraordinary nature except to score a very fine goal, but he did show good positional sense, scored one of the rare goals that have come from this berth recently, and the Town have nothing to lose by giving him a spell there.

Scott Found Emery A Stumbling Block

THE fact that he scored should serve to restore his confidence, and there was evidence that this is returning when he got the ball into the net before the interval, only to have the goal disallowed.

Previously, Scott had found the strong Emery a rare stumbling block, and though he sought to pull the centre-half out of position, the tactics succeeded only rarely.

Always Scott was at a disadvantage when the ball was in the air, and he found Emery by no means easy to beat when it was on the ground.

The switch to inside-right did not suit him, and, with Cullen having an off-day and rarely being able to round Graham, little came from the right wing in the second half.

Left Wing Linked Up Well At Times

THEREFORE, it was left to the Downie-Davies combination to produce almost the only constructive Town forward moves after the interval, but even these were few and far between.

At times the link-up between the left-wing pair was comfortably accurate, but Downie showed a tendency to be caught in possession and, in his finishing, Davies, playing out of position, is still not entirely happy.

Against a fast, strong tackling defence, the forwards often took too long to make use of the ball, and their spells of real cohesion were very limited.

Town Owed A Big Debt To Owen

TO Owen for his stout and gallant work, the Town owed a considerable debt and he never allowed the dash and bustle of Gibson to unsettle him.

Time and time again, the centre-half came to the rescue during periods of heavy pressure, with prompt clearances and, during the second half, he was almost continually in action.

Most of the honours in this match went to the defence, in which Shanks got through successfully a tremendous amount of work and was another who earned a high rating.

For once in a way Morton was not in top form, either in his

FOR THE RECORDS

LINCOLN CITY 1
Garvie
LUTON TOWN 1
Turner
LINCOLN C.: Lowery;
Green, Graham; Wright,
Emery, Owen (R.); Munro,
Garvie, Gibson, Whittle,
Finch.
LUTON TOWN: Stretten;
Jones, Aherne; Morton,
Owen, Shanks; Cullen,
Turner, Scott, Downie,
Davies.
Referee: J. G. Williams.
Arnold, Notts. Attendance:
11,135.

tackling, or in his use of the ball, and did not obtain his usual grip in the middle of the field.

When Jones Saved The Situation

THOUGH Jones bordered on over-coolness at times, both he and Aherne stuck to their guns in a far from easy situation and Jones saved the day by kicking off the goal-line after Stretten had parried a drive from Garvie.

Jones sometimes left himself with too far to go when the opposing winger had the ball under control, and there was closer marking by Aherne, who found the speed and trickiness of Munro a bit trying on occasion.

Both kicked an adequate length and played their part in the defensive battle that the Town had to fight in order to return with a point.

So did Stretten with several first-class saves, including one from Munro when everything seemed lost. This was Stretten at his confident best and he was always a big obstacle to the home forwards.

Reserves Did Not Accept Chances

IT was the old, old story at Kenilworth-road when the Reserves dropped their third point in a fortnight when they were held to a draw by Bournemouth Reserves.

If their finishing had been a little more accurate they would have won comfortably, but luck was not with them and three times they hit the woodwork with Bird, the visitors' goalkeeper, well beaten.

Mitchell Scored From Penalty

LUTON were leading 1-0 at the interval, thanks to an opportunist goal from Pemberton, but Hobbs equalised in the 58th minute.

Play deteriorated after this and Bournemouth adopted robust tactics which led to Luton taking the lead again, for when MacEwan was fouled twice in a minute the result was a penalty award which Mitchell crashed past Bird.

Luton looked set for both points at this stage, but after Taylor missed an easy chance Bournemouth broke away and Fidler equalised with a neat header.

Chiltern's Forecasts

DIVISION I

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

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v. Bradford
Barnley v. Scunthorpe U.
Bradford C. v. York C.

Carlisle U. v. Port Vale
Chesterfield v. Southport
Grimsby T. v. Barnsley
Halifax T. v. Crewe Alex.
Mansfield T. v. Workington
Rochdale v. Hartlepool U.
Stockport Co. v. Darlington
Tranmere R. v. Chester
Wrexham v. Gateshead

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v. Hearts
Airdrieonians v. East Fife
Clyde v. Rangers
Falkirk v. Queen of South
Hibernian v. Dundee
Partick T. v. Celtic
Raith R. v. Hamilton
St. Mirren v. Stirling A.

DIVISION "B"

Alloa v. Morton
Arbroath v. Third Lanark
Dumbarton v. Stearnhouse
Dundee U. v. Ayr U.
Dunfermline v. Albion R.
Kilmarnock v. St. Johnstone
Motherwell v. Cowdenbeath
Queen's Park v. Forfar Ath.

SELECTIONS

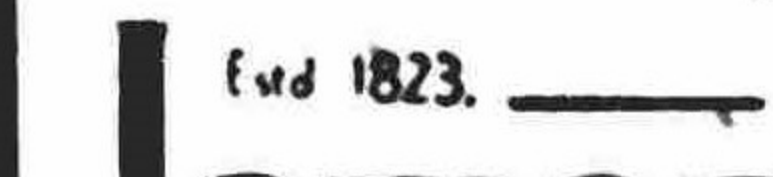
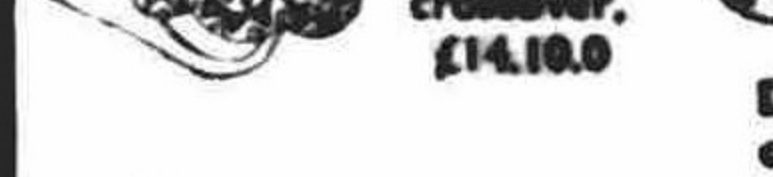
TEN HOME. — Bolton, Burnley, Tottenham, Birmingham, Fulham, Nottm Forest, Southampton, Swindon, Bradford C., Stockport.

FOUR AWAY. — Arsenal, Blackburn, Northampton, Port Vale.

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FLOODLIGHT MATCH
TO-MORROW (Wednesday)

LUTON RESERVES

versus
FULHAM RESERVES
Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

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