

GLIMPSE OF SHAPE OF THINGS TO COME

Town's Young Forwards Had Progressive Ideas

By Chiltern

Most significant happening during the Town's holiday matches was the drastic manner in which the much-criticised attack was re-organised for the return with Leeds United at Elland-road on Monday when experienced players in Downie, Mitchell and Cummins were left out in favour of three youngsters who have been doing splendidly for the Reserves. Result was that the Town probably fielded their youngest-ever forward line—average age 21—and the newcomers did more than enough to show the pattern of things to come and to suggest that the future has been well catered for by long-range planning and a policy of giving real encouragement to youth.

MacEwan and Adam had each made only two previous appearances in the first team, while, for Groves, this was his League debut, but all three did so well, despite their inexperience, that one wondered what would have been the effect on the Town's promotion chances had the move been made some time ago.

The tall Groves, with the long, easy stride, showed that he can soon be allowed the role of schemer permanently, for he seldom wasted a ball and there was a good response from Adam, who has also the ability to make the outside-left position his own.

In fact, the display of the team as a whole caused the Leeds manager, Raich Carter, to remark somewhat enviously to Dally Duncan afterwards, "You have a good lot of youngsters there."

Where previously there had been slowness of movement and too much fiddling in attack, there was progression and a readiness to get on with the job that would have brought goals had the luck really been in.

An early success would have been a real confidence-maker and would, I think, have paved the way to victory over Leeds, who again relied over-much on the dangerous Charles.

Ably led by the hard-working MacEwan, who is really beginning to look the part of a Second Division centre-forward, the line as a whole was always producing good football and they should have taken the lead during the first half when Scott pushed out a centre by Shanks, and MacEwan, from inside the six-yards line, blazed the ball high over.

MacEWAN NEARLY ATONED

That miss was the only blot on an otherwise capable display and he nearly atoned on two occasions afterwards—once when Scott just got his finger-tips to a shot made on the half-turn and, later, when he just missed the far post with the goalkeeper beaten.

But the nearest approach to a goal came just before the interval when Adam shot against the bar after doing well to control an awkward ball. Cullen had another good match as deputy for the injured Davies, and Turner looked happier in his old position than he has been in the middle.

Until the game took an unlucky turn for them in the 60th minute, the Town, looking the better-balanced team apart from the opening stages when Charles was at his most threatening, seemed to have at least a point safe in their keeping.

Then, Nightingale sprawled in the penalty area after Aherne had come across to intercept, and, to the general surprise, the referee pointed to the penalty spot.

A strong protest failed to shake the decision, and there was agreement afterwards that it was a harsh one, and I certainly saw no suggestion of a foul by the left-back.

CHARLES scored from the spot, was ordered to retake the kick because of some infringement, and made no bones of crashing the ball in again.

Twelve minutes later, CHARLES scored again, this time with a header after Streten had pushed out an awkward cross by Nightingale, but the Town's hopes were revived in the 77th minute when TURNER coolly ran on to a perfect pass by Shanks and drove the ball low past Scott.

Then, it looked as if they might save the point they deserved, and Pemberton was unlucky with a crashing drive, but Leeds held out.

Even without Owen, the defence was assured and steady once the settling-down period was over and once Morton had taken the measure of Charles, which he did completely after a somewhat uneasy beginning.

There was another top-form showing by Shanks, and with Pemberton taking his chance ably and Jones and Aherne always reliable, there was adequate cover for Streten, who made several good saves.

LEEDS UNITED: Scott; Dunn, Hair; Kerfoot, Davies, Burden; McCall, Nightingale, Charles, Iggleden, Williams.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Pemberton, Cullen, Turner, MacEwan, Groves, Adam.

Referee: B. A. E. Buckle, Peterborough.