

BEST LAID PLANS CAN GO ASTRAY

RESERVES' SLIP ENDS INTEREST IN TITLE

Hard-Fighting Defence Had Star Role At Bury

By Chiltern

Football, as in everything else, the best laid plans can go astray in unexpected fashion, as the Town discovered on Saturday when the Reserves, given pride of place so far as team selection was concerned, fell from grace badly in losing at home to Reading.

This not only deprived them of their last chance of the Combination title, but removed much of the attraction from to-morrow's home game with West Ham, which might easily have drawn a record Reserve team gate in other circumstances.

While this was happening, the first team, to whom points were at a vital necessity, picked up a Bury in an end-of-the-season type of scramble, in which the reserves were largely on top from start to finish.

Victory was clinched only two minutes from the end, when Mitchell accepted one of the few scoring chances that had been given out and cracked in a hard drive from the inside-right position that sent the ball into the net off the inside of the post.

That redeemed to some extent the poor display by the forwards, who showed little in the way of cohesion and usually fell victims to the Bury defence.

Forwards Made Very Little Impression

PARTICULARLY was this the case in the first half, when they made scarcely any impression at all and the Bury defenders seemed to have all the time in the world in which to make their chances.

Some measure of improvement was achieved when Scott was moved to centre-forward, with Turner at inside-right, and Scott's dash began to cause the home team some concern, though there was not a large measure of support for him.

The first half was very much the story of one-way traffic with the Town defence having to fight desperately to keep them out.

Wing Halves Took On An Attacking Role

ON many occasions a goal seemed imminent, only to be veered off by a desperate tackle or a fine save by Streten, but, as the interval approached, it seemed that the goal must fall.

So much on top did Bury come that Daniel and Bardsley were able to take on an attacking role which increased even further

FOR THE RECORDS

BURY 0
LUTON TOWN 1
Mitche"

BURY: Goram; Fairclough, Massey; Daniel, Hitchen, Bardsley; Imlich, Clarke, Kelly, Pearson, Simm.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Aherne; Shanks, Morton, Downie; Davies, Scott, Turner, Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: W. Clements, West Bromwich.
Attendance: 11,018.

There was a change by Davies and Mitchell, too, and it was this that finally led to the decisive goal.

Brilliant Defensive Work By Town

THE move began from Davies on the left, and when his hit centre was not intercepted Turner hooked the ball back to Mitchell, who hit it first time and left Goram helpless.

So Bury paid the penalty of lack of finish, and while perhaps the Town did not deserve the points on the run of the play, they earned high rating for a brilliant defensive display which was on a level with that they put up at Brentford, where they were also winners by the only goal.

Fortunate indeed are the club that they have in Morton a player who can step into the centre-half position so successfully that Owen is not missed, and he was the corner-stone of the defence.

Morton's Complete Grip On Kelly

ALL through, he gave Kelly a most unhappy time, about which the crowd, disappointed not only by their team's display but by the quality of the football, too, did not hesitate to remind him.

Morton never gave the centre-forward the slightest scope, and it was as well that the way down the middle was blocked so firmly, for Pearson laid on a number of fine through passes that might easily have been turned to account.

Also in the honours list was Downie, appearing at left-half for the first time in a League match and, despite the comparative strangeness of the position to him, he quickly settled down to play strongly and well.

Middle Line Was A Strong Point

ALWAYS coming in to meet the ball, he tried to use it, too, and, at times, it was quite remarkable how he got up to reach high centres with his head.

With Shanks showing a continuance of his recent fine form and giving Pearson little room in which to manoeuvre, the middle line was one of the Town's strongest points, even though the wing halves frequently found themselves facing two opponents during the time Bury were right on top.

Nor for the wingers, either, was there much rope, for both were closely watched and Aherne played in immaculate, stylish fashion throughout.

Jones, too, looked a stylist and was much on top of the job.

"Streten Always Plays Well Here"

"HE always plays well here," was the comment about Streten by Bury officials afterwards, and it could be added that this is not the only ground where he has earned similar praise.

Completely confident in everything he did, he brought off many first-class saves and was seldom in real difficulty.

These points brought the total gained from the last eleven matches to 15, and enable the Town to finish in a higher position than seemed likely before that run began.

They stand fifth at the moment, but can be headed by Rotherham United if they win their outstanding match which is at home.

Loss of confidence has probably been a big factor in the recent indifferent showings by the forwards, and one who has been affected deeply is Turner.

Attacks Took Too Long To Develop

OUT of his element at centre-forward, he was too often caught standing still in this match in which he did not achieve a great deal.

Nor would anything very much go right for Cummins, which was partly his own fault because of his persistence in hanging on

to the ball and the inaccuracy of his passes.

Turner did better when he moved to inside-right, and the forwards as a whole showed more determination after half-time, and Cummins did a lot of work in the middle of the field.

Mitchell rarely struck his best form, and although Davies worked hard, he was not so progressive as usual.

But the line as a whole took too long in which to develop their attacks, and it was an uneven display in which the industrious Scott was the pick of the bunch.

Reserves' Lapse Was Expensive

THE Reserves paid the price of indifferent finishing when they were beaten by lowly Reading Res.—and an expensive price it was, too, for now West Ham Res. are sure of the Football Combination (Div. I) title.

Reading Res. were not a particularly good side, in fact they rarely rose above the "ordinary," but they had three scoring chances and accepted them all.

Town's 14 For Eire

THE Town's three Eire Internationals, Seamus Dunne, Bud Aherne and George Cummins, are included in the party of 14 players which will fly to Dublin on Thursday to play three matches in Eire.

Apart from Dunne, Jim Pemberton, John Groves, Peter MacEwan and Michael Cullen, of the Reserves' team are included, but the party will go without Sid Owen, who has to report on Monday for special training at Eastbourne. Notable absentee from the list is Bert Mitchell and it looks as if Roy Davies will be required to fill the outside-left position.

The party will be: Streten; Jones, Aherne, Dunne; Shanks, Morton, Downie, Pemberton; Cullen, Groves, Turner, MacEwan, Cummins, Davies.

That was the difference between the teams, for while Luton never touched their best form, they had more of the play and should have had the match won before the interval.

Scoring Chances Were Squandered

PERHAPS it was nerves, or perhaps they were put out of their stride by a hard-tackling Reading defence.

Whatever the reason, the home forwards squandered chances before the interval although midway through this half Adam, with a fine hooked shot, scored after a well-placed corner by Cullen.

From then until the interval, it was all Luton but the forwards were unable to score again.

Player who went closest to increasing the lead was right-half Alwyn McGuffie who sent in three hard drives, two of which were only inches off the mark.

Three Quick Goals By Reading

AT the start of the second half it quickly became obvious that Luton needed another goal, for Reading had plenty of fighting spirit.

Temper became a little frayed and for a spell the visitors took command.

In the 60th minute Ritchie equalised after a goalmouth

Calling All Secretaries

With the football season all but over, cricket and bowls enthusiasts are now coming into their own, and in most cases fixture lists for the summer sports have been printed.

Will club secretaries please send a copy of their fixtures to the Sports Department, "The Luton News," so that they can be included in the "Sports Diary" feature in the "Saturday Telegraph"?

A supply of cricket and bowls result cards is now available at "The Luton News" office.

scramble, and then, within 10 minutes, Reading were two goals in front through Dunne, who put through his own goal while trying to stop a centre from Wheeler, and Bedford.

Luton hit back with a goal from Allen, but, try though they did, they were unable to salvage a point.

It was a pity that they did not reach peak form for this vital match. All the forwards were ratchety and the defence was guilty of several mistakes in the second half.

Big Innings For Town By Newcomer

NEWCOMER to the Town C.C., Douglas Bull, made a most auspicious start with them with a fine innings of 79 in the match at Tring Park on Saturday, when the Town had the better of a drawn match.

Going in at number 3, Bull played most stylishly and had good support from John Muse and Billy Hammond.

Despite some accurate bowling by Doug Randall who took five wickets, the Town could not force a win, and Tring were 38 behind at the finish with two wickets in hand.

Bull also batted well on Sunday, when T. R. Keens took a side to Wardown, but the home innings was dominated by John Oliver, who hit freely for 78 not out.

The visitors never recovered from early blows struck by Terry Matthews and, although they lasted until five minutes before scheduled close of play, they were beaten by 55 runs.

CRICKET IN BRIEF

LUTON TOWN 182 for 5 dec (D Bull 79, G W Hammond 27, J A Muse 20), TRING PARK 144 for 8 (D S Randall 5 for 54, R D Gardiner 2 for 46).

J A R OLIVER'S XI 141 for 5 dec (J A R Oliver 78 not out, D Bull 36, D Swan 2 for 21, B Johnson 2 for 40), T R KEENS' XI 86 (J Bottoms 41, Clayton-Brown 23, G W Hammond 3 for 6, T D Matthews 3 for 12, J Allingham 3 for 26).

LUTON TOWN II 141 (A J Webley 38, D Plastow 33, H Hewison 25, M Ransom 3 for 31, R Sear 2 for 12), TRING PARK II 115 (G Batchelor 45, M Ransom 37, H Hewison 4 for 15).

OLD LUTONIANS 158 (R Venables 57, G Gillespie 24, C Hayes 22, N Cleaver 3 for 39), HEXTON 51 (P Oliver 19, C Poulter 6 for 22, T Sealy 4 for 28).

Darts

L.V. PLAY-OFF IS TO-NIGHT

The L.V. League winners' play-off at the Brewery Cub will be held to-night, and not on Thursday as was stated in the "Saturday Telegraph."

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Mr. P. Coley, secretary of Luton Town F.C., presents the Bedfordshire Youth Cup (Under 18) to Gordon Sheppard, captain of Limbury Old Boys, who beat Luton Hotspur in the final on the Town ground on Saturday morning.—R8781J