

POINT DISAPPEARED IN A LATE BLITZ

Town Caught In County's Tremendous Recovery

By Chiltern

NOTTS COUNTY 3 LUTON TOWN 3

A draw was sure to come the Town's way sooner or later, but it should not have happened in this match at Meadow-lane on Saturday when they were leading 3—1 eleven minutes from the end, and then had their advantage snatched away from them in a tremendous rally by the County.

There were exactly three minutes to go when the home team snatched the goal that put them level for the first time since the second minute of the game when Morton made a great start to his latest spell as a centre-forward.

That he can do the job and also get the goals that have been so scarce in this position this season, MORTON amply demonstrated, for he often had the County defence beaten for speed, and he showed such accuracy in his finishing as to suggest that he will blossom forth as a leading marksman.

His first goal was coolly taken from a neat pass by Turner and he lost no time in ramming the ball into the roof of the net when Adam provided an opening for the second 21 minutes later.

Two goals ahead and playing confident, assured football in difficult conditions, the Town looked a safe bet at this stage and they went close to adding to their lead on several occasions.

From the County there was a deal of fighting spirit in their attempts to improve their parlous position, but it did not amount to much until four minutes before half-time when the "break" went against Owen in a tackle with Wills, with the result that the ball went on to JOHNSTON, who, with Streten drawn out of goal, simply had to put it into an empty net.

A SPLIT SECOND TOO LATE

Effect of that might have been neutralised almost immediately for one of Adam's clever runs left Turner with a chance which he promptly took, but, as the ball left his foot, the whistle went for half-time and so a split second prevented the Town from regaining their previous advantage.

Their luck was out, too, in the first minute after the resumption when Turner made a brilliant dribble, ending with a pass to Davies, from whose centre Morton got the ball into the net.

Unfortunately, in doing so, the ball ran up his arm and the referee disallowed the point as he had on one occasion in the first half for hands against Adam.

There was never any disputing the fact that the Town were the superior side despite the fact that the County had quite lengthy spells of pressure which yielded little in the way of shots.

From the Town attack there was always more constructive skill and further goals to them always seemed a likely happening. However, they had to wait until the 79th minute when ADAM stopped a clearance by Deans and went on to beat Bradley with a shot that went in off the post.

That seemed to signal the end of the County, but they hit back unexpectedly through BROADBENT two minutes later when he fastened on to a through pass from McCormack.

As if this was the tonic they had been awaiting, the County suddenly began a period of all-out attack which had the Town in difficulties before the equaliser came three minutes from time.

This followed a corner from which WYLIE came out of the ruck of players in the crowded penalty area to head into the net.

ATTACK BENEFITED FROM MORTON'S DRIVE

Disappointing though the final result was, it was no mean feat to gain a point from a team that has been most consistent at home this season.

Compared with recent displays, there was more all-round power in the Town team, with the forward line benefiting a great deal from the drive of Morton in the middle, combined with his good distribution of the ball.

Best support for him came from Turner who used the through pass to good effect—something that Groves would have done well to copy — and from Adam, who was fast and direct and who showed a marked improvement on recent displays.

The heavy going was against Groves, but he might have helped himself considerably had he parted with the ball more readily, and Davies improved after a somewhat uncertain start.

Despite the three goals against them, there was a lot of satisfaction to draw from the work of the defence, strengthened by the return of Owen, who played

McCormack right out of the game.

Sound support was given by Pemberton and Shanks, with the former showing promise of settling down at right-half, and Aherne was in top form, as Wills speedily discovered.

For Dunne, there was more of a handful in facing Broadbent, but it was a task he faced gallantly and with a good deal of success, and the covering of the defence, as a whole, until the last 10 minutes when they were run off their feet was such that few shots came from the home forwards.

About the second goal, there was some suggestion of tardiness by Streten in sizing up the situation, and he seemed to be taken by surprise by the quickness with which Wylie moved to meet the corner that brought the equaliser.

NOTTS COUNTY: Bradley; Southwell, Deans; Adamson, Wade, Jarvis; Wills, Wylie, McCormack, Johnston, Broadbent.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Groves, Adam.

Referee: J. F. Pickles, Bradford. Attendance: 10,500.