

MUCH PRAISE, BUT NO POINTS

"BEST SIDE SEEN AT WEST HAM SO FAR!"

Undeserved Defeat By A Lucky Late Goal

By Chiltern

Just what the general feeling was after the match at West Ham on Saturday was summed up by the London team's manager, Ted Fenton, in the Boardroom. "We had all the luck that was going and you are the best team to play here this season," he told the disappointed Daily Duncan, who had seen the points slip away in the most unfortunate fashion.

All through it had been a case of cheers for the Town and real appreciation of the football they produced and near-jeers from their own supporters for West Ham, who were just not allowed to find their stride.

CONSOLATION for the Town after this chapter of accidents lies in the quality of the football they produced, and if they could play this type of stuff consistently on their own ground, then there would be no more complaints about the empty spaces on the terraces.

There were several hundreds of their fans there on Saturday to see for themselves that this team can play fast, go-ahead football, and it was the very speed at which the moves were operated, combined with almost uncanny accuracy at times, that had the West Ham defence thoroughly bewildered for long periods.

Little Went Right In Front Of Goal

JUST why sufficient goals did not come to have made certain of a substantial victory is something of a mystery, but the fact remains that very little went right for them in front of goal and that everything seemed to turn out in favour of the harassed home defenders.

Several times Taylor reached shots at full-length at the very last split second.

Others cannoned off defenders' legs when they were en route to the back of the net, and there were other instances of drives missing the target by inches.

On the other side of the scale there were times when hesitation in applying the finish cost goals and chances were missed, but these were more than balanced out by the bad luck that attended their scoring efforts.

"First Division Stuff" Said Hammers' Fans

THAT West Ham should snatch both points was just about the grossest miscarriage of justice that can be imagined, for they never even approached the class of the Town, which caused several enthusiastic Hammers' supporters sitting behind me to mutter constantly, "This is First Division stuff."

How refreshing it was to see football of this quality, and how disappointing that it reaped no

reward because of a couple of unlucky goals against them.

This was football played the easy way, with no unnecessary holding of the ball, but quick use of it with players taking up the open spaces in readiness to accept the pass.

Spent Much Time In Chasing Shadows

WHAT it all added up to was that the West Ham defenders spent the greater part of the afternoon chasing shadows, for they were seldom able to make a successful tackle against a front line that swept downfield with a succession of crisp, accurate passes.

What then went wrong apart from the fact that the goals did not come as they should?

There was the handicap of having to fight back against the most disastrous start that an away team can be faced with—that of presenting their opponents with a goal before the match is properly under way.

Dunne's Back-Pass Went Into Net

THIS came in the fourth minute, when West Ham were already reeling against the thrust of the Town attack, who began like a house on fire, and came the first time the home team had got anywhere near the Town goal.

A sharp ricochet off Pemberton sent the ball to Dunne, who was facing his own goal.

There was no one near enough to cause this to be a serious situation, and Dunne elected to pass back at the same time as Baynham left his goal to go towards his right-back.

The ball went wide of Baynham's left side and, although he turned as quickly as the greasy turf would allow, his chase after the ball was fruitless.

Should Have Sent Wide Of The Posts

MORE amusement than enthusiasm was caused among the home fans at this turn-up.

FOR THE RECORDS

WEST HAM 2
Dunne (own goal), Dick
LUTON TOWN 1
Morton

WEST HAM: Taylor; Bond, Kinsell; Malcolm, Brown, O'Farrell; Hooper, Fenn, Sexton, Dick, Andrews.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne; Pemberton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Morton, Cummins, Adam.

Referee: L. Callaghan, Merthyr Tydfil. Attendance: 23,000.

but it was tragedy for the Town and such an unnecessary affair.

The blame for it? Mostly, I think, for Dunne, who did not follow the elementary rule of passing wide of the goal-posts in case of accident and whose back-passing I have noticed before is not always of the most accurate.

Baynham, possibly, was culpable to some extent in that he came out before he saw the direction in which the ball was going, but in the end he was left in a most unfortunate position.

Yet afterwards, Bill McCracken, such a famous right-back in his hey-day would not have it that any blame attached to Baynham at all.

Goalkeepers Cause A Division Of Opinion

WHATEVER reaction the various "inquests" produced, there was no doubt about the effect and, for a short time, the happening unsettled the Town defence and certainly did not help Baynham's confidence.

Among supporters there is a sharp division of opinion about the comparative merits of Baynham and Stretton and a large section hold that the latter should not have been omitted.

Baynham, I feel, has not had the best of luck on his return to the team and he has been a victim of unlucky circumstances just when he needed things to run his way.

This was one of those unfortunate things that could have happened to anybody.

Deflection Caused The Winner

SOME supporters, I hear, are inclined to put some of the blame on him for the second goal, which came four minutes from the end and gave such a fantastic twist to this match.

In this instance, the direction of Dick's shot was changed sharply by a deflection off Dunne's body and Baynham, already in the original line of flight, was "set."

Although the ball bounced before it crossed the line at the opposite end of the goal, there was little he could have done about it, for it all happened in a split second.

Baynham Needs Time To Settle Down

I MUST say that in the last two matches Baynham has not given me the impression that he is as sure and confident as on his previous appearances in the first team, but after his long absence he needs time to settle down and I feel, too, that the "breaks" have been against him.

One thing for which he is invaluable is in the way he cuts out high centres, at which he is expert, and he did much of this most brilliantly at West Ham.

However, the defence as a whole had much less of a test than they must have expected from the home forward line that looked sluggish and out of touch, and between the two goals against them they were much in command.

Back-Pass Led To The Town's Goal

CURIOSLY enough, it was a back pass which Taylor fumbled that brought the Town their equaliser five minutes after half-time, and this goal by Morton must have looked an ominous event to the home team.

From there, the Town gave every indication that they would steer to the victory that had always seemed ready to fall into their lap, but despite more brilliant approach work, it just did not happen that way. Advent of Morton as leader has had much effect on the attack as a whole. Not only is he continually harassing the centre-half and always on the look-out for the half-chance, he is linking up cleverly with his inside forwards and keeping the line moving smoothly.

Cummins Has Caused Improvement, Too

THIS is the happiest conversion the Town have made for a long time and another who has done his share in the recent im-

provement is Cummins, who had his best game of the season and who is using the ball much more quickly than used to be the case.

There were occasions when he could not resist a bit of over-elaboration but, that apart, he fitted brilliantly into the scheme of things.

Had there been more support from Adam, who had an off-day, and was uncertain in his finishing, the left wing could have wrought the same havoc as did the right.

Davies Was Back In His Best Form

WITH Davies back to his best form and thriving on the prompting he received from Turner and Pemberton, this flank, particularly in the second half, produced a great deal of threat.

Davies was one of the unlucky ones in that two terrific drives by him that seemed bound for the back of the net were just deflected by defenders and his speed and directness were always a danger.

From Turner came another very good game, for he was always using the ball to advantage, though one hopes that his absence from the scoring list is only to be of short duration.

Hooper Was Always In Aherne's Grip

BEFORE-THE-MATCH briefing emphasised a great deal the potential threat that Hooper holds for opposing defences and Aherne saw to it that the winger had no chance of pressing home his claims for a place in the England team.

There was little service for him and when he did gain possession of the ball, he found Aherne a stumbling block he could not overcome.

The left-back was completely effective and so was Owen in blotting out Sexton to the extent that I cannot remember the former Town player having a single shot at goal.

Good Support Came From Wing-Halves

ALWAYS Owen seemed to have plenty of time to do what was required, a sure sign of complete domination and confidence.

In praising the football played by the forwards, due regard should be paid to the service that came their way from Pemberton and Shanks.

If the former can continue in this vein then any nagging worries about the wisdom of moving Morton into the attack will be removed.

Apart from his hard tackling, he was able to give full rein to his liking to attack and there was a stream of good passes from him.

So was Shanks thoroughly on top of the job, often beating an opponent in the cleverest fashion before distributing the ball with accuracy.

Reserves' Forward Line Clicked

WHEN Luton Reserves' forward line "clicks" it must be the most dangerous in the Football Combination.

On Saturday, against Coventry Reserves they won 7-0—their second highest score of the season, but although they were beaten so handsomely Coventry Reserves were not as poor as the score suggests.

In fact, they were the more dangerous side in the opening stages, and even when Luton had built up a three-goals lead Coventry still played good football and had a fair share of the game.

Promising Show By Amateur Winger

LUTON'S fourth goal killed all hopes of a Coventry rally though, and in the second half Luton added three more.

They were lucky to take the lead in the 17th minute when Kelly converted a good centre from Petersen, the South African amateur left winger, who made an encouraging debut in this class of football.

Kelly scored again a few minutes later and Petersen made it three. Goal number four came from Allen, and Groves (2) and Kelly scored in the second half.

The Luton forward line played bright football with Cullen giving a good display and the inside three harassing the Coventry defence continually.

The defence had an easy time after the first 15 minutes or so and they were always right on top of the job.

BOXING

FULL HOUSE AT 'LUX

Narrow Win By The Army Team

A selected Army boxing team beat a team of Electrolux boxers 3-2 in the Electrolux canteen on Saturday.

A "full-house," including Sir Frederick Mander, Dr. Charles Hill, M.P., Mr. Norman Cole, M.P., and the Mayor of Luton, Cllr. H. C. Lawrence, saw some good boxing and a varied programme with bouts between "mighty atoms" and, at the other end of the scale, "Goliaths."

In the former category was a junior bout between H. Amiss (Markyate B.C.) and J. Whitehill (Vauxhall). Amiss won, but there was a well-deserved ovation for Whitehill, who gave a very plucky display.

In a schoolboy contest C. Nurse (Electrolux) beat G. House (Markyate), and both boxers showed skill and courage in this contest.

The heavyweight contest was between P. Menard, an American serviceman, and a member of the Electrolux B.C., and Guardsman Paterson.

It was an even fight, but Menard, the more stylish boxer, just deserved the decision.

CONNELL WAS LUCKY

Luckiest boxer was D. Connell, an Irish international and a semi-finalist in the European Championships. His opponent, a coloured boxer, O. Paul, of Battersea B.C., was the more aggressive, landed more blows and often had Connell in trouble.

There was little doubt that Connell's ringcraft was first class, but the majority of the spectators thought that Paul was the winner.

J. O'Connor, another Irish international and a great favourite at Electrolux, was narrowly beaten by W. Tiffany (Army).

However, O'Connor recently injured a hand and has had a nose operation. Under the circumstances he gave a good display.

TEAM MATCH

Light welterweight, Gdsn. Benstead (Army) bt. R. Clear (Electrolux). Welterweight, G. Arnold (Electrolux) bt. T. Molloy (Army). Light middleweight, L/Cpl. Sellick (Army) bt. B. Hastings (Electrolux). W. Tiffany (Army) bt. J. O'Connor (Electrolux). Heavyweight, P. Menard (Electrolux) bt. Gdsn. Paterson (Army).

SPECIAL BOUTS

Junior bout, H. Amiss (Markyate B.C.) bt. J. Whitehill (Vaux.). Junior lightweight, C. Allen (Luton B.C.) bt. T. Raggett (St. Albans B.C.). Schoolboy contest, C. Nurse (Electrolux) bt. G. House (Markyate B.C.). Featherweight, P. Cummins (Davis B.C.) bt. E. Nash (Balliol B.C.). Lightweight, D. Connell (Electrolux) bt. O. Paul (Battersea B.C.). Light welterweight, P. Lilley (R.A.F.) bt. T. Rodgers (Electrolux). T. Nash (St. Albans B.C.) bt. T. Vigor (Battersea B.C.). J. Stokes (Liverpool) bt. Cpl. Towler (R.A.F. Abingdon).

Chiltern's

DIVISION I

Arsenal v. Wolves
Burnley v. Tottenham H.
Cardiff C. v. Blackpool
Chelsea v. Portsmouth
Everton v. Bolton W.
Leicester C. v. Sheffield Wed.
Manchester C. v. Charlton Ath.
Newcastle Utd. v. Huddersfield T.
Preston N.E. v. Sunderland
Sheffield Utd. v. Aston Villa
West Brom v. Manchester Utd.

DIVISION II

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

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

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

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Accrington S. v. Gateshead
Burnley v. Crewe Alex
Barrow v. Tranmere R.
Bradford C. v. Carlisle Utd.
Halifax T. v. Grimsby T.
Mansfield T. v. Hartlepool Utd.
Oldham Ath. v. Chester
Scunthorpe Utd. v. Chesterfield
Southport v. Rochdale
Workington v. Stockport Co.
Wrexham v. Darlington
York C. v. Bradford

SCOTTISH LEAGUE DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v. Falkirk
Clyde v. Kilmarnock
East Fife v. Hibernian
Hearts v. Queen of South
Motherwell v. Celtic
Rangers v. Raith R.

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