

PROMOTION HOPES BETTER THAN EVER

Fourth Consecutive Win At Hull For The Town

By Chiltern

In spite of an unpromising start in which they dropped a home point to Hull City after a disappointing display on Christmas Day, the Town fulfilled the hopes of their supporters by taking three points from their two holiday games as a result of a great win at Hull.

Now they have emerged as stronger promotion candidates than ever, holding second position, only a point behind Blackburn Rovers, who regained the leadership by completing a double over the moderate Doncaster team. Middlesbrough helped the Town considerably by taking three points from Leeds United, who began the holiday at the top of the Division.

By winning at Boothferry Park, the Town gained their fourth consecutive success on that ground and, for the second time in just over a week, they equalled their previous biggest winning margin in an away game.

BACK TO TOP FORM

HULL CITY 0

LUTON TOWN 4

Showing all the forward thrust and dash that had humbled the Forest at Nottingham, the Town amazed a big crowd of 39,843 at Hull on Monday by the way in which they disposed of a City team reinforced by the inclusion of Wilf Mannion.

What was hoped to be a master stroke by persuading the former England player to come out of his self-enforced retirement, proved to be a damp squib, and apart from some preliminary sparkle it was the Town's inside forwards who did all the shining.

Approaching this match as if they were nettled at their partial failure two days earlier, the Town settled down from the start and gave a thoroughly workmanlike

of his best days, there was much brilliant scheming, and he developed a thorough understanding with Cullen, who responded well.

There was good co-operation, too, between Davies and Turner, with the latter impressing with his positional sense and the former having the better of quite a tough battle with Neal.

To shine, forwards must have the material provided, and that was where Pemberton and Shanks came in, while Owen, too, distributed the ball well.

Behind it all, the Town gave the impression of a team with a very sure idea of where they were going and how they were going to get there, and there was cohesion between all departments.

The defence was always steady and sound, with Dunne always the master of Ackerman and Aherne coping most ably with the difficult task of marking Atkinson, who was nearly always lying deep, often in his own half of the field.

Then there was Baynham rising to the occasion with brilliant saves before the position had been consolidated to complete a triumph for good football allied with team-spirit and determination.

HULL CITY: Teece; Whitnall, Neal; Horton, Franklin, Durham; Atkinson, Downie, Crosbie, Mannion, Ackerman.

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



George Cummins

Luton's inside-left who compared more than favourably with Hull's "new boy," Wilf Mannion.

display which often reached the heights of brilliance.

All the same they had a fight on their hands for an hour, after which things went very much their way, as they were entitled to do, for by then their lead amounted to three goals.

What really broke the Hull spirit was a scoring burst that brought two goals in three minutes at a vital stage early in the second half, when a success to the home team could conceivably have swung the game the other way.

At that stage the Town were leading by a goal from MORTON in the 17th minute, when he seized on a mistake by Neal, took the ball in his stride for the best part of 20 yards, and drove it past Teece as the goalkeeper came out.

NEARLY HAD ANOTHER

In the next minute the centre-forward nearly had a second success when he bundled goalkeeper and the ball so far that he appealed strongly for a goal, but the referee would not agree.

Two or three scoring attempts, principally by Downie and Ackerman, were foiled by the excellence of Baynham's goal-keeping, and the only time during the whole of the match when the Town looked as if they might have lost their grip was for the space of a few minutes late in the first half.

Then, partly because the inside-forwards came back on to the defensive, there was heavy pressure from Hull, but once the Town became geared up in attack again, the danger passed.

Again, early in the second half, Hull would have equalised through a Downie header had Baynham not made a great save. Then came the two quick goals that changed the situation entirely.

First, after 55 minutes, TURNER raced through to take a pass from Cummins and turned the ball into the far corner of the net. Appeals by Hull for offside were turned down by the referee after consultation with a linesman.

Three minutes later, the ball was in the net again, this time through MORTON—who again showed his speed off the mark by taking advantage of hesitation in defence to break through and make no mistake.

As the Hull attack had been tamed previously by a fine Town defence, there was no danger after that, and the Town proceeded to treat the crowd to a lesson in controlled, progressive football which might quite easily have led to them doubling their total.

In fact, only one more goal came, though Turner had one disallowed for offside, and that was from CULLEN, left with an easy task close in after Turner had pulled the ball back from the dead line.

TOP QUALITY FOOTBALL

That they should break down so thoroughly a Hull defence that had looked so water-tight in the previous meeting was due largely to a change of tactics.

The passing was more accurate, made more quickly, and was always designed to be progressive. Men who were not in possession of the ball took up good position in the open spaces and, in addition there was finishing of a quite deadly order.

As a line, the Town attack always looked a more potent force than that of the home team, and such was the quality of their football that it often drew spontaneous applause from the crowd.

To this end everyone did his share, with Morton a rare thruster down the middle and not making the mistake on this occasion of allowing Franklin to take a grip on him. He moved about and was ever on the alert for even the half-chance.

From Cummins, who had one