

MUST FORGET THE CUP DEFEAT

CANNOT AFFORD TO HAVE ANY REACTION FROM IT

Town Back To The Fight For Points To-Morrow

By Chiltern

What the Town have to guard against now is the danger of reaction setting in following their Cup-tie defeat and they will have an early opportunity of showing that their confidence has been unshaken, not only by their Cup dismissal, but by the ending of their long unbeaten run, when they visit Derby County to-morrow afternoon.

There is no earthly reason why their confidence should have been sapped in the slightest after a defeat received in appalling conditions in a match that could very well have gone the other way had they had that little bit of luck during the period that they were well on top.

So, the sooner the Cup disappointment is forgotten the better, for there is a man-sized job to be done in collecting the precious points still needed for promotion.

On comparative form, there should be a great chance of them picking up a couple at the Baseball Ground, for Derby have had a hard struggle this season and are still facing a grim fight to keep their Second Division status.

Good news for the Town was that up to mid-day yesterday there had been no snow in Derby since late last week.

The County's home match with Bristol Rovers on Saturday was played on an inch of snow and that has been disappearing gradually during the week-end.

Sunshine In Derby Yesterday

WHILE snow was falling steadily in Luton yesterday morning, there was sunshine in Derby and there are reasonable hopes that the pitch will be in much better condition than that on which the Town had to contend against Manchester City.

Need of Derby for points is equally as urgent as that of the Town, who can regain the leadership they had to hand over to Blackburn on Saturday, by repeating their victory on this ground of last season.

So far, Manager Dally Duncan has not announced his own and one injury trouble in the Town have is that Sid Owen has been having treatment for the groin muscle strain which first cropped up at Stoke.

Owen's Groin Trouble Has Recurred

THIS is likely to be a recurring trouble until there is the opportunity of giving him a rest, and the addition of this mid-week match complicates the issue so far as he is concerned. Whether or not he has to be regarded as being in the doubtful category was not certain yesterday when it was hoped that intensive treatment would enable him to play.

Presumably, in the event of this not being the case, choice of a deputy would fall on Leshe Jones, who was named for the

job when the Town were due at Birmingham last month and the match was not played because of the icy pitch.

There is also a doubt about the fitness of Roy Davies who received a kick on the wound he received the previous week and it could be that he will have to stand down. Derby's choice is expected to differ little from the team that drew with the Rovers on Saturday.

Jesse Pye Will Need Close Watching

AT the Baseball Ground, they will meet two old friends in their former trainer, Ralph Hann, and Jesse Pye, who has been the County's most consistent forward ever since he joined them.

The battle between Owen and Pye should be doubly interesting in view of how well they know each other's play and Pye is still doing much wandering from the middle and trying to throw opposing defences into confusion by his excursions down the wing.

It is from their former colleague that the Town will have most to fear to-morrow, and there is no need to over-emphasise that fact.

In an attempt to introduce the punch to round off Pye's scheming, Derby have brought in at inside-right, 19 years-old former winger, McQuillan, and they recalled for last Saturday, Tommy Powell, who had been left out of the two preceding matches.

Awaiting Leave For Two Players

POWELL is the Derby captain and during his absence from the team, Pye became skipper, a job which he handed back to Powell against the Rovers, though, no doubt, he will be given it again against his former comrades.

The desperate situation in which they found themselves induced Derby to pay a big fee to Clyde for Buchanan, an outside-right, who has quickly settled down in English football.

Team selection has been delayed because Derby are waiting to know whether Ray Young, their centre-half, can obtain leave from the Army and whether the R.A.F. will release



SID OWEN was receiving treatment for a groin injury again.

left-half Frank Upton, formerly of Northampton Town.

Defence Has Been Vastly Improved

IF they are successful in this, the likelihood is that the Town will be facing an unchanged team which has shown much defensive strength since it underwent a major reorganisation. Average age of the defence has been brought down to 21, with Savin, at 25, the oldest member of it.

In the last 10 League matches, they have conceded only 10 goals, a tremendous improvement on their poor record before this stage.

Team that played against the Rovers was: Webster; Patrick, Savin; Clark, Young, Upton; Buchanan, McQuillan, Pye, Powell, Imlach.

This is a match for which compensation is due to be paid, so there will be anxious Luton eyes on the size of the attendance.

Smallness Of Gate Was A Surprise

IT was the gate at the Cup-tie that caused the biggest surprise, for it turned out to be 5,000 short of capacity, wholly accounted for by the fact that there were only just over 6,000 on the Kenilworth-road terrace.

Obviously, many fans without tickets thought they would have no chance of gaining admission, with the result that after the early queue was dealt with at 1 o'clock, there was only a trickle of customers.

Moral from this is that the Town would have done much better, not only financially, but in retaining goodwill, had they sold tickets beforehand for this part of the ground.

It would have had the effect of reducing the ticket shortage and would have assured them of a capacity gate.

'Keep Cup-Ties Clear Of Bad Weather'

THERE is a steadily-growing school of thought in football that the Cup-tie rounds should be kept clear of the bad weather months of January and February and the Town manager was saying afterwards that it was farcical that such important matches should have to be decided in freakish conditions.

Disappointed as he was at his team's defeat, his main disappointment was that the snow which fell throughout the match had prevented the classic match he expected to see.

"In those conditions, good football was a near impossibility," he said.

It is perfectly true that the weather made this game a test of adaptability as much as anything else, but there is no doubt that the Town had their golden chance in the first half an hour.

Just A Couple Of Taps Would Have Done It

PLAYING much the better football and looking the better all-round side, they caused the

FOR THE RECORDS

LUTON TOWN 0
MANCHESTER CITY .. 2

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

MANCHESTER CITY: Trautmann; Meadows, Little; Barnes, Ewing, Paul; Fagan, Hayes, Revie, Hart, Clarke.

Referee: F. L. Overton, Derby. Attendance: 23,104. Receipts £4,636.

City defence to have a most shaky period during which they were the luckiest team in the world not to concede two goals.

Had that happened, and there were only inches in it on each occasion, I think the Town would have been more intimately interested in yesterday's sixth round draw than they were.

Both escapes came from crosses from the left, by Morton, then Turner, and all that was needed to gain the all-important first goal was a tap.

As it was, the City found the ball breaking the right way for them in front of goal when Baynham could not hold a centre from Fagan and Clarke accepted a gift chance to put his team ahead against the run of the play.

Clarke's Opportunism Did The Trick

AFTER that, the Town seldom looked anything like as dangerous as they had been previously and even before Clarke's second open goal came 14 minutes after half-time, the Town's chances of earning even a replay had begun to take on a remote look.

The second damaging happening came when Dunne tried to clear first time with his left foot when he had time to stop the ball and make sure of his clearance.

His miskick sent the ball straight to Clarke who glided it in from point-blank range. Two mistakes, two examples of opportunism by a player who was always very much on the spot and that was how this Cup-tie was won and lost.

Not Much Shooting From The Town

FROM the Town point of view the big disappointment was that the forwards failed entirely to overcome the worsening conditions in the second half when they produced only one worthwhile shot that memory can recall and that was from Morton, who gave Trautmann his most severe test.

Even when they were making all the running early on, there was insufficient shooting, partly due, undoubtedly, to the way in which the City defenders packed their penalty area.

The longer the game went on, the stronger the defence became and they did the right thing in the second half by coming in to meet the ball, whereas the Town were often standing waiting for it.

Close Watch Was Kept On Turner

NOR did the Town make sufficient use of the ground making through pass after the interval. Instead, there was over-much use of the square pass with the ball often being kept too close.

Many times, Turner, on whom the Town based such hopes, ran into an open space only for his positioning to be in vain because the ball never came.

Obviously, the City had been well briefed about where the main danger could be expected from, for Turner was closely watched throughout and, as a result, he found it nearly impossible to get a clear shot at goal.

Nor did Morton receive much



JESSE PYE, who is expected to turn out against his old club to-morrow.

scope from Ewing, a much-improved player since the day Jesse Pye led him such a dance two years ago.

More Incisive Work Needed From Wingers

MORTON, too, was largely blanketed out and Cummins, after a great start in which he looked as if he might scheme a Luton victory gradually fell away and found that the treacherous going was all against the slide-rule pass and complete ball control.

However, the Town attack would have been more incisive had there been more fast raiding by the wingers.

The conditions certainly did not suit Davies, who could not get going and could not make much of Little, while Cullen, while he made some good passes during the time the Town were on top, was inclined to keep the ball too long and hold up the line as a result.

Twenty minutes from the end, the winners switched, but there was not a great deal of improvement.

Revie Plan Was Not A Real Menace

ON the other hand, when Fagan and Clarke had possession of the ball, they were a distinct danger.

Dunne never really got the measure of Clarke, who consistently took the ball up to him, and Aherne found the speed of Fagan something of a trial.

Much had been made beforehand of the Revie plan and the Town feel that the tactics they adopted to deal with it were correct.

Revie was allowed to wander where he liked, often cropped up in defence and certainly did not cause the Town undue worry, though he collected a number of loose balls and showed good distribution.

It was at half-back that the Town were nearest to being in their true form, and Owen was outstanding for his strength and coolness under pressure.

Half-Backs Were Always Strong

ALWAYS he had to be on the look-out for either the inside-forwards or the wingers converging on the vacant space in the middle mostly left by Revie, but seldom was he in any sort of uncertainty.

Noticable, too, was the amount of covering done by Shanks, who weighed up the situation cleverly and always seemed to be at hand whenever a gap appeared.

Pemberton came through finely, too, particularly in his attacking qualities, and his driving power had much to do with giving the Town their early initiative.

Baynham was unlucky in that the ball "broke" away from him after he had gone down in a heap after his attempt to cut out the Fagan centre that brought the first goal.

There were one or two cases of mishandling, inevitable in the conditions, but Baynham made some fine clearances from high centres. One not so good aspect of his play, though, was his goal-kicking, with which he seemed to have the utmost difficulty, particularly in the second half.

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Bert Trautmann, Manchester City's German-born goalkeeper, did not have a particularly busy afternoon, but he did well to save this shot from Roy Davies. R6792K