

HAD LITTLE PRAISE FOR EITHER SIDE

"Dreary," "End of season football," "Poor finishing"—these were only some of the descriptions by national newspaper critics of the Cardiff-Luton match on Saturday.

There was little praise for Cardiff, but even less for Luton, as these "quotes" will prove:

"What little entertainment there was in this dreary game occurred in the first half only. The Luton forwards lacked both sparkle and ideas."—News of the World.

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"Had Cardiff taken all their chances they must have won by half a dozen goals. Ron Baynham was the most hard-worked player on the field. The Luton attack lacked ideas." — Sunday Express.

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"Cardiff won this game in a canter—mainly because that was just about the pace of the game. It was end-of-the-season football with an almost 'couldn't care less' attitude." — Empire News and Sunday Chronicle.

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"This was Cardiff's first win in eight matches, but it was no revival. Cardiff missed chances while Luton indulged in pretty patterns without bringing any real threat of a goal." — Sunday Dispatch.

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"Luton wrecked competent approach work by lamentable finishing. Moving the ball into the open spaces and making ground by calculated football, Luton played attractive midfield soccer but wasted every opening." — The People.

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"Luton stuck to their guns in the second period and Pearce, Groves and McLeod, with clever interpassing, worried the Cardiff defence."—Reynolds News.

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"The man who did the real work and prevented Cardiff from completely running riot was Ron Baynham."—Sunday Pictorial

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"Cardiff deserved to avenge their defeat at Luton. They had more than 60 per cent of the play and could have won by a big margin had the forward line thought and acted quicker when in range." — South Wales Football Echo.

NO-PUNCH TOWN GO DOWN AT CARDIFF

Work In Approach Took Too Long To Develop

By Chiltern

CARDIFF CITY 2, LUTON TOWN 0

When a team has scored only one goal in four League matches, it does not require a genius to pinpoint the prevailing weakness and it was seldom more apparent than at Ninian Park, Cardiff, on Saturday.

Naturally, it derives from forward troubles, for two main reasons. In the first place, clear-cut openings are not being made quickly enough and, secondly, when scoring chances occur, there just are not the marksmen available to make the most of them.

After surviving, with the exception of a goal by HITCHENS who tapped the ball through after Baynham had saved from Ford in the ninth minute, an early period of all-out attack by Cardiff, the Town took the upper hand in the latter part of the second half by virtue of clever midfield football.

So much of it, however, was misguided for attacks took so long to develop because they were mostly launched across field instead of through the more direct route, that the Cardiff defence was seldom pulled out of position.

Only once in the first half did the Town really look like retrieving a bad start during which Ford hit the bar with a terrific drive and that was when Pearce headed against a post from Adam's centre.

ONE PASS TOO MANY

Adam was one forward who looked as if he might achieve something because he had the beating of Stiffall, but there was not a lot of support for him and the tendency was to make one more pass rather than to take a chance and have a crack at goal.

So well had the Town recovered that it came as a surprise when, with a minute to go until half-time, Ford suddenly broke away down the left and WALSH headed through his centre which Hitchens flicked on to him.

That blow changed the whole course of the game for, whereas the Town were always in it in midfield, they seldom suggested sufficient strength in front of goal to really worry the home defence.

While Groves showed clever-

ness in midfield, his tendency to delay his pass cut down his effectiveness and it was Adam who mainly looked as if he might be the one to produce something to break down the Cardiff defence.

On the other hand, Davies seldom made a great deal of progress and the step into First Division football was a bit too much for McLeod and, hard though he tried, he could not avoid running into trouble.

In the last 20 minutes, he switched with Pearce, who had not looked happy at centre-forward, but it failed to produce more than a show of enthusiasm by McLeod that was quickly blunted.

TWO-PRONGED ADVANCE

Main threat to a defence that always looked to be struggling but which held on gamely, was the two-pronged advance and the constant switching of Ford and Hitchens.

This foxed another debutant, McGuffie, at first, but once he got the measure of things he did very well and had every reason to be satisfied with his first appearance.

No-one could have expected Owen to step right back to his best after his long lay-off, but in a game that proved trying to the defence he did sufficient to suggest that it will not be long before he is his dominant self again.

Hard work and Shanks have become synonymous and he was always in the thick of it, especially in the first half when he was often almost a sixth forward and yet managed to get back in defence, too.

With a Welsh selector watching, Jones did not strike his brilliant form of the previous week, but he was impressive enough in the second half after a moderate sort of start, and Dunne, somewhat shaky early on, improved after the interval, too.

Failure by Baynham to cut out Ford's centre cost the second goal, but it was his only mistake and he stopped the best that the Cardiff forwards could produce.

CARDIFF CITY: Vearncombe; Stiffall, Sherwood; Harrington, Malloy, Sullivan; Walsh, Kirtley, Ford, Hitchens, McSeveney.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Jones; McGuffie, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Groves, Pearce, McLeod, Adam.

Referee: N. C. Taylor, Westbury. Attendance: 16,000.