

REASON FOR THE SID OWEN SWITCH

TO GIVE YOUNGER FORWARDS ADVICE

Attack Sadly Lacking In Punch At Cardiff

By Chiltern

IT is perhaps open to doubt whether Town fans will have the opportunity of seeing what Southampton supporters did last night and that was the unusual spectacle of Sid Owen leading the forward line.

The suggestion for what will probably be a one-night performance, unless it was so successful as to enforce repetition, came from Owen himself after the match at Cardiff on Saturday.

Not that Owen considers himself to be the answer as leader of the attack, but his intention was to help the young inside-forwards by playing alongside them.

Then he could give them advice as to the timely distribution of the ball and when to hold it and when to part with it while the game was in progress.

"I might be able to help things on a bit," Sid told the Town Chairman, Mr. P. G. Mitchell, and Manager Dally Duncan, and they eagerly accepted his offer.

After all, Sid is the club coach, too, and both Reg Pearce and John Groves, the inside-forwards last night, might benefit considerably from the experience.

George McLeod could not be considered because of ankle trouble.

Experience Needed At Inside-Forward

THAT someone mature was needed in one of the three inside-forward positions was very plain at Cardiff where the attack lacked generalship.

Good football there was in approach at times, but much of it was misdirected. Too many moves went across field and too many passes were used in making a limited amount of ground.

Yet, there had been early evidence that the Cardiff defence

was vulnerable to the through pass down the middle, for twice Pearce pushed the ball through to make possible chances for McLeod, who was crowded out on each occasion.

Play Was Too Close And Crowded

MUCH of the work was too close and crowded, too, and there should have been more use made of the long pass.

Result was that the Cardiff defence was given plenty of time in which to cover and the amount of shooting produced was almost negligible.

True, the Town were unlucky not to equalise the goal Hitchens scored in the ninth minute after Baynham had saved one-handed from Ford, when Pearce headed against the outside of the post with Vearncombe nowhere in the vicinity but, that apart, almost the only worthwhile shot came from Pearce in the second half.

Several Narrow Escapes For Town

SHANKS, who was much with the attack before the interval, twice shot high over from just outside the penalty area, and most of the Town's shooting was of similar quality.

Yet in the last 20 minutes before the interval, they had a grip on

FOR THE RECORDS

CARDIFF CITY 2

Hitchens, Walsh.

LUTON TOWN 0

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

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

Referee: N. C. Taylor, Westbury.

Attendance: 16,000

the game after surviving, apart from Hitchens's goal, an early storm from the home forwards.

In doing so, they had their lucky escapes, especially when Ford slammed the ball against the crossbar and when McSevery was judged to be offside when he flicked the ball into the net.

However, despite the fact that they were a goal behind and despite their shot-shyness, things looked quite reasonable from the Town point of view as the interval approached.

Second Goal Changed The Situation

WHAT changed all that was a quick Cardiff breakaway which relieved steady Town pressure and brought the goal in the 44th minute that put Cardiff in a strong position.

Ford again did the preliminaries by picking up the ball on the left wing and making a centre that Hitchens flicked on to Walsh, who headed through as he was tackled.

Baynham went up in an attempt to prevent Hitchens reaching the ball, but mistimed his effort.

In the first minute of the second half, Cardiff should have become three up, for Hitchens was left with all the goal to shoot at, only five yards out. All he succeeded in doing was to side-foot it against McGuffie, who was standing on the line.

Cardiff Always The More Thrustful

WHILE the Town continued to play neat though over-close football in midfield, their finishing never looked strong enough to enable them to make any real bid to save the game, though they might have been out of luck when they had two claims for penalties, one for hands and one for a foul, turned down.

But Cardiff were always the more thrustful side, stronger and more forthright in attack, and their defence was mostly too strong for a forward line that misfired when it came to making the final pass.

The one who did look as if he might save the situation was Adam, who gave Stiffall something of a chasing in the first half.

Valuable Experience For Youngsters

SOME of his centres could well have been turned to advantage, but he did not see so much of the ball after the interval when he did not finish so well.

McLeod was a trier who, however, did not look ready for this class of football and he was caught in possession too often.

However the experience which such youngsters are gaining from these odd outings in the first team will be valuable to them in the future.

After two League games, I fancy the Town will have come to the conclusion that Pearce is unlikely to be the permanent answer at centre-forward, and that he

needs the added space which an inside-forward position gives him.

Satisfactory Debut By McGuffie

HE did best when he moved out of the middle, but was not the hard-shooting leader that the Town needed.

A tendency to hold on to the ball too long and to attempt too much was the main fault of Groves, who showed clever footwork, much of it spoilt because he did not part with the ball at the right time.

There was not a great deal of thrust from Davies, who found Sherwood somewhat difficult to round and added driving power was what the whole line needed.

From his introduction to League football, McGuffie could derive a lot of satisfaction, for he soon settled down to the increased speed, and although the constant switching of Ford and Hitchens caused some problems for him, he came through what was quite a fiery baptism with credit, and was always trying to make good use of the ball.

Owen Came Through His Test Well

NEVER looking completely solid against the dash of Ford and Hitchens, the Town defence yet did well to limit Cardiff to two goals.

This was an important occasion for Owen, making his come-back after his long absence, and he came through well.

Naturally enough, he was uncertain in his timing occasionally and did not immediately drop into his usual dominant form, but that will return with match practice.

Because Kirtley wandered much to the left in the first half, Shanks found himself playing almost as a second right-half and he was much on the attack before the interval and also contrived to do a deal of covering in defence, too.

Jones Did Not Hit His Best Form

WALES have a full-back problem, and it was a bit unfortunate for Jones that he did not strike the brilliant form he showed the previous week against Portsmouth.

In the first half he tended to give Walsh too much room, but he was nearer his best afterwards, when he made some clever clearances.

Dunne did not gain a complete mastery over McSevery and, once again, he showed too much fondness for the short pass when making his clearances.

But when he was beaten he was very quick in recovery.

Defence Were Faced With Difficulties

HOWEVER, with the forwards making so little impression, it was not an easy day for the defence, and their difficulties were increased by the fact that the turf was greasy and the swirling wind played tricks with the ball.

Baynham took the blame for the second goal, but there was not much more he could do about the first, for Ford's shot was leaving him all the way.

Several of his saves were very good indeed, and two or three times he made during clearances when all seemed as good as lost.

Altogether, in view of the somewhat unfamiliar look the line-up had, to lose by only two goals was a fairly creditable performance, but it could have been even better had there been some forward punch.

A Treat For The Hardy

BECAUSE of the dreadful weather conditions on Saturday only a few spectators braved the elements and went to Kenilworth-road to watch the Town

Reserves entertain Plymouth Argyle Reserves.

But those stalwarts who did go were well rewarded and saw one of the most exciting matches ever staged there. The result was a 6-6 draw—and it is a fairly safe bet to say that it will be a long time before there is a similar result at Luton.

It was a game in which the forward lines took all the honours, but the conditions made it a nightmare for defences, and they could do little right.

Five Goals In Eight Minutes

THE pitch was covered with water, and rain fell continuously throughout the game.

For the first quarter of an hour or so it looked as if goals would be scarce, but then Pounder and MacEwan cracked home a couple for Luton to begin one of the most fantastic goal-scoring sprees ever seen at Luton. The first two goals were scored in two minutes, but two minutes later Swiggs, the Plymouth centre-forward—a lively player who led Kelly something of a dance—had reduced their arrears.

Gregory scored again for Luton, but a minute later the ball was in the back of the Luton net.

These five goals came in a hectic eight minutes, but the spree did not end there, for before the interval Swiggs and Cullen added further goals.

There Was A Thrill A Minute

THEY can't keep this up in the second half," a spectator was heard to say during the

interval—but he was very wrong, and he realised this a couple of minutes after the restart when Swiggs put Plymouth on terms once more. Cullen and Taylor (penalty) made it 6-4, but again Plymouth hit back, and Anderson and Davis equalised yet again.

"Fantastic" is the only word for it, but if all reserve games were as exciting the terraces would be full for all the second string's matches.

It is difficult to mention particular stars, and it would be unfair to criticise too much. The most suitable comment to make would be to congratulate all 22 players on serving up thrill-a-minute football in deplorable conditions.

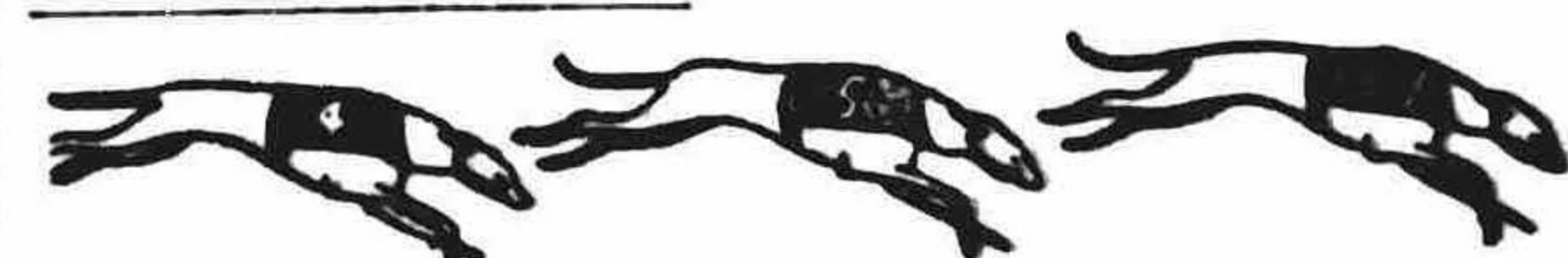
Fine Fight Back By Third Team

THE Town's third team also did well when they held the Metropolitan League leaders, Chelsea "A," to a 3-3 draw. At half-time they were trailing three goals down and looked set for a battering, but they pulled themselves together in the second half and proceeded to give Chelsea something to think about.

Hawkes put them back into the game with a chance, Cottam, a youngster from the Town's junior team, reduced their arrears even further, and Ted Duggan scored the equaliser.

This was one of the third team's best performances of the season.

Greyhound Racing



ONLY ONE SURPRISE AT LUTON-IN LAST RACE

CRACKLINGS was the only surprise winner at Luton Stadium on Saturday. He won at 6-1 and broke a long run of short-priced successes for his victory was achieved in the last race of the evening.

There was a winner for each trap except number 3.

I (410 yds.)—1. JEFF (4) and RIVER BANK (5), dead heat; 3. Senator (2); 4. Princess (6); 5. Whipped Cream (3); 6. Saucy Girl (1). Dead heat, 8, 3, 4, 12, 25.48. Off 6.45.

Betting: 2-1 JEFF, Princess, 7-2 RIVER BANK, 6-1 Senator. Whipped Cream, 8-1 Saucy Girl. Forecasts: 14/3, 16/6.

II (470 yds.)—1. MIDGET (1); 2. Fruity (5); 3. Lightning (2); 4. Sammy (6); 5. Betty (4); 6. Lucky Deal (3). 3, 3, 8, dist. 28.75. Off 7.05.

Betting: 5-4 Fruity, 3-1 MIDGET, 4-1 Sammy, Lightning, 8-1 Lucky Deal, 10-1 Betty. Forecasts: £11/10.

III (410 yds.)—1. SHEILA'S CHOICE (2); 2. John (5); 3. Grasshopper (1); 4. Dragon (6); 5. Scamp (4); 6. Gina (3). 5, 4, 2, 3, 6, 25.09. Off 7.25.

Betting: 1-2 SHEILA'S CHOICE, 4-1 Scamp, 5-1 Dragon, 8-1 Others. Forecasts: 19/3.

IV (410 yds.)—1. MARINER (5); 2. Signal Box (1); 3. Crimson (2); 4. Lion's Head (6); 5. Dirty Shirt (3); 6. Dark Invader (4). 5, 3, 2, 6, 4, 24.46. Off 7.46.

Betting: 2-1 MARINER, 5-2 Crimson, 3-1 Lion's Head, 9-2 Dark Invader, 6-1 Others. Forecasts: £2/1/6.

V (470 yds.)—1. KING SOL (6); 2. Spacer (5); 3. Tony Token (4), reserve; 4. Epping Lad (3); 5. Gold Leaf (2); 6. Rabbit (1). 3, 3, 4, 3, 12, 27.76. Non-runner Nervo (4). Off 8.05.

Betting: 6-4 KING SOL, 3-1 Spacer, 7-2 Gold Leaf, 5-1 Epping Lad, 8-1 Tony Token, 10-1 Rabbit. Forecasts: 13/6.

VI (470 yds.)—1. NOT FAST (1); 2. Call Boy (2); 3. Eddie's Pride (3); 4. Sash (5); 5. Bright Light (6); 6. The Lodger (4). 2, 1, head, 4, 4, 4, 28.22. Off 8.24.

Betting: 10-11 Eddie's Pride, 2-1 NOT FAST, 9-2 Call Boy, 10-1 Others. Forecasts: £3/9/9.

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CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I

Birmingham C. v. Bolton W. Burnley v. Wolves

Charlton A. v. Cardiff C. Everton v. Blackpool

Luton T. v. Manchester C. Manchester Utd. v. Portsmouth

Newcastle Utd. v. Chelsea Preston N.E. v. Aston Villa

Sheff Wed. v. Sunderland Tottenham H. v. Huddersfield T.

West Brom v. Arsenal

DIVISION II

Barnsley v. Nottm. Forest Bristol C. v. Blackburn R.

Bury v. Sheff Wed. Fulham v. Doncaster R.

Leeds Utd. v. Bristol R. Middlesbrough v. Hull C.

Notts County v. Stoke C. Port Vale v. Leicester C.

Rotherham Utd. v. Liverpool Swansea T. v. Plymouth A.

West Ham v. Lincoln C.

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Aldershot v. Millwall Brighton v. Bournemouth

Crystal Palace v. Gillingham Ipswich T. v. Leyton O.

Newport County v. Coventry C. Northampton T. v. Reading

Q.P.R. v. Watford Shrewsbury T. v. Colchester Utd.

Southampton v. Norwich C. Swindon T. v. Brentford

Torquay Utd. v. Southend Utd. Walsall v. Exeter C.

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Bradford C. v. Burnley Crewe Alex. v. Chesterfield

Derby County v. Rochdale Huddersfield v. Accrington S.

SCOTTISH CUP FINAL

Celtic v. Hearts

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION "A"

Aberdeen v. Kilmarnock Clyde v. Raith R.

East Fife v. Stirling A. Falkirk v. Dunfermline

Hibernian v. Rangers Queens of South v. Airdrieonians

St. Mirren v. Dundee

DIVISION "B"

Athlon R. v. Morton Alloa v. East Stirling

Ayr Utd. v. Hamilton Brechin C. v. Stranraer

Dumbarton v. Senhousemuir Dundee Utd. v. Berwick R.

Forfar A. v. Queen's Park

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME: Birmingham, Charlton, Manchester Utd., Swansea, West Ham, Brighton,

Northampton, Bradford C., Hartlepool, Derby, FOUR AWAY: Arsenal, Sheffield Wednesday, Liverpool, Grimsby.

THREE DRAWS: Burnley v. Wolves; Notts County v. Stoke; Southampton v. Norwich.

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