

INJECTION OF THRUST NEEDED IN FORWARD LINE

HAD SHOT-SHY LOOK AGAINST SUNDERLAND

Inside Trio Were Very Much Out Of Touch

By Chiltern

BURNING problem facing Manager Dally Duncan is how to inject into his shot-shy forward line some punch and thrust that will enable them to get among the goals again and thus bring to an end what is now becoming a depressing run.

At Sunderland they gave a particularly inept display when it came to rounding off some good-looking work which was produced in midfield, and they seldom looked likely scorers.

THIS, despite the fact that in the first half they had far more of the play than did Sunderland, in terms of possession of the ball, but pretty work and short, square passes, are not calculated to break down a defence.

While I would not put Sunderland's rearguard among the strongest in the First Division, they were made to look good by virtue of the time in which they were given to cover and they made the region of the penalty area very much their own possession.

Showed Little Sense Of Urgency

IN their play, the Town forwards showed little sense of urgency. Two or three passes were made when one could very well have accomplished much more, and there was little attempt to capitalise on tactics that had been successful on previous occasions against this opposition.

Then they showed themselves vulnerable to the through pass down the middle because of the very squariness of their defensive set-up, and there was no reason to believe that they had become any more mobile.

Scoring Openings Not Being Made

WHAT success the Town forwards have achieved in the past has been mostly gained by keeping the ball moving forward crisply.

Now, they have got into a rut, seeking to make their progress far too often across the field, a plan that is not carving out scoring openings.

During the opening phase, the class of this type of football the Town produced caused some Sunderland supporters to say they were the best team to play there this season, but they had changed their tune long before the end.

Few Shots Worthy Of The Name

WHEN shooting range was reached, the finishing was nothing more than deplorable, and Fraser scarcely had to deal with a shot worthy of bearing the name.

Probably what the Town needed after their barren spell was the confidence that an early goal brings, but things did not work out that way because in their first attack of any menace, Sunderland scored.

It counted as Fleming's first success of the season and he demonstrated his pleasure with a leap high into the air.

Goal Did Not Affect The Pattern Of Play

THERE did not seem to be all that risk when Bingham pushed the ball into the middle, but Fleming cleverly sold the dummy to Owen, leaving himself with a shot at goal with his left foot from just outside the penalty area.

He did not drive it properly but, all the same, it was effective enough, the ball entering the corner of the net, beating Bingham on his left side.

This did not affect the pattern of the play which was still the Town on top without giving much promise that they could break down the opposing defence.

Penalty Appeal Was Turned Down

MAYBE they were unlucky when the referee refused them a penalty when Adam was brought down but despite their lack of thrust, there did not seem to be a great deal to worry about until two minutes before half-time.

Then a quick run by O'Neill got him just clear of Groves,

PICTORIAL WEEK-END SPORTS SPECIAL

who tackled him from behind and pulled him down unmistakably inside the penalty area. O'Neill recovered sufficiently to shoot against a post, but the referee was already pointing to the spot and Fleming duly obliged with a hard, rising drive to which Bingham very nearly got a hand.

Fighting Comeback Did Not Materialise

THAT was the situation at half-time, with the Town in a very much worse position than should have been the case, taking into account the amount of play they had had.

In view of that, there seemed to be no reason why they should not have made a fighting comeback in the second half, even though the wind was against them.

That, however, was what did not happen. Sunderland, doubtless appreciating the good fortune that had come their way, gradually took a grip, and Luton's hopes finally foundered when O'Neill scored a simple third goal with a shot that bounced in off the inside of the post.

Inside Trio Very Much Out Of Touch

THAT seemed to sap what spirit the Town forwards had left and they lost even their ability to weave patterns in midfield.

Mystery was really why Sunderland did not further increase their lead and, indeed, they came very close to it on occasion.

On paper there is enough ability and strength in this Town forward line to be one of the most dangerous in the country, but, at the moment, the inside trio are out of touch altogether.

Which opens up the argument again of whether Morton should be left as leader or whether he should be restored to his rightful position at right-half.

Brings Us Back To Where We Came In

ALL of which, of course, brings us back to where we came in and to the hard, unpalatable fact that there is no recognised centre-forward of real experience on the books.

Were Morton to be restored to the half-back line, the vacancy in the middle will test the ingenuity of anyone to fill it, unless it were decided to let Brown have a try there.

However, Brown is having a thin time in his own position and is not coping with the lively ball, though his time will come, undoubtedly, when the going is more holding.

Many Advocate The Return Of Cummins

THERE are many supporters who advocate the return of Cummins and there certainly is a need, in the present set-up, for a forward with his ability to hold the ball and produce the defence-splitting pass.

Let I be accused of trying to usurp the task of team selection and, at this stage, it is the last job I should want, I will pursue this theme no longer.

Except, that is, to add in fairness that, on Saturday's showing, Groves is not entitled to lose his place in the middle line.

From him there was a very fair performance indeed, but he is not yet the power Morton can be in this position.

No Spearhead In The Front Line

EVEN allowing for the indisputable fact that only a very thin service is coming his way, Morton is not shaping as the challenging, dashing type of leader the Town could use so badly at the present juncture.

With an out-of-form Turner trying hard, but not achieving much, there just is no spearhead in the front line.

Best of the attack I made Adam, playing for the first time in the League team at outside-right.

At least, he showed progressive ideas and a realisation of the need to get on with things which may enable him to carve out a new career for himself here.

Owen Was Master Of The Middle

FROM the way in which McLeod began, I thought he might have something of a field day against the rugged Hedley, but the service he received petered out to a large extent and his finishing was not really any better than that of the remainder of the line.

Apart from that early setback, the Town defence spent the first half in almost complete command of the Sunderland forwards.

Owen was the master in the middle and what no-one could understand at half-time was how exactly the defence had managed to concede two goals.



Old Coat Was Well Worth Backing On Saturday

Old Coat was a surprise 8-1 winner at Luton Stadium on Saturday. Apart from his success, though, there were few shocks.

I.—410yds: 1, OLD COAT (6); 2, Day Out (3); 3, Reject (4); 4, Skiffs (5); 5, Picture Lady (1); 6, Johnny B (2). 11, 1, 3, 4, 1. 24.72. Off 6.45.

Betting: 5-2 Reject; 5-2 Skiffs; 6 Day Out; 7 Picture Lady; Johnny B; 8 OLD COAT.

Forecast: £1 18s. 6d.

II.—470yds: 1, BELAVISTA (5); 2, Lion's Head (3); 3, Page One (6); 4, Tim's Pet (4); 5, Rose Bud (2) (reserve); 6, Jasper (1). 8, 3, 4, 3, 1. 27.91. Non-runner: Coq D'Or (2). Off 7.06.

Betting: Evens BELAVISTA; 4 Tim's Pet; 9-2 Page One; 5 Lion's Head; 7 Rose Bud; 8 Jasper.

Forecast: £1 4s. 3d.

III.—410yds: OH EFFIE (4); 2, Bogard (6); 3, Speedy Ash (1); 4, Trump (5); 5, Tippit (3); 6, Grotto (2). Short head, 1, 2, 10, 2. 24.71. Off 7.26.

Betting: 2 Bogard; 9-4 Speedy Ash; 3 OH EFFIE; 5 Trump; 8 Tippit; 10-8 Grotto.

Forecast: £1 13s. 6d.

IV.—470yds: 1, CORAL BEAD (3); 2, Houghton Boy (5); 3, Poppy (4); 4, Rusty Boy (1); 5, Quick Step (2); 6, Our Bob (6). 1, 1, 2, 3, 5. 27.82. Off 7.47.

Betting: 2 Rusty Boy; 5-2 Houghton Boy; 3 CORAL BEAD; 5 Quick Step; 8 others.

Forecast: £1 8s. 3d.

V.—470yds: 1, CHUB (1); 2, Whataboy (5); 3, Ballerino (3); 4, Strollor (2); 5, Laughing Boy (6); 6, Yana (4). 1, 3, 1, 1, 2. 27.90. Off 8.07.

Betting: 2 CHUB; 3 Yana; 7-2 Laughing Boy; 4 Whataboy; 6 Ballerino; 8 Shaker.

Forecast 18s. 9d.

VI.—410yds: 1, PHADADIS (6); 2, Hi Gang (3); 3, Rabbit (1); 4, Lavender (2); 5, Rasputin (4); 6, Joan's Boy (5). 11, 1, 1, 2, 3. 24.46. Off 8.27.

Betting: 9-4 PHADADIS; 3 Rabbit; Joan's Boy; 7-2 Rasputin; 8 others.

Forecast £2 18s.

VII.—470yds: 1, JIM'S GIFT (6); 2, Pixie (1); 3, The Dove

FOR THE RECORDS

SUNDERLAND 3
Fleming (2), O'Neill

LUTON TOWN 6

SUNDERLAND: Fraser; Hedley, McDonald; Anderson, Adams, Elliott; Bingham, Fleming, O'Neill, Granger.

LUTON TOWN: Bayham; Dumas, Jones; Groves, Owen, Pearce; Adams, Turner, Morton, Brown, McLeod.

Referee: F. Cowen, Manchester. Attendance: 24,724.

Defence Had Heavier Task Later On

THEN, seemingly having assured themselves during the break that their position really was true, Sunderland rolled up their sleeves for the second half, began to come in to meet the ball and with their own forward line disintegrating before their eyes, the defence had a heavier task.

While Pearce was not in the tremendous form of the last few matches, he contrived to see to it that Revic had a very quiet time and Groves did well against the elusive O'Neill.

Some criticism was levelled at Groves on the grounds that he was too often running with the ball, but the plain fact was that it was difficult to find a forward colleague who had managed to get himself in an open space.

Bingham's Speed Was A Danger

UNTIL Sunderland began to exploit the speed of Bingham in the second half, Jones had seemed to stroll through the game with no trouble at all in cool, cultured style.

Later, he was bothered by the speed of Bingham, but by then the destination of the points had been decided by earlier events.

Although Dumas was never completely on top, and is not in his best form at the moment, there was not much danger from Granger.

Bingham, after being largely a spectator in the first half, had more opportunities of showing his skill afterwards, but there was a suspicion that he might have been nearer to saving that first successful shot from Fleming.

Reserves Out Of Their Bad Patch

ALTHOUGH they missed two penalties on Saturday, the Town Reserves played attractive football and seem to have snapped out of their bad patch.

In fact, if they had showed anything like this form in their last half dozen games they would probably be situated very near the top of the Football Combination table.

They beat Bristol Rovers Reserves 4-0, and it should have been 6-0 because penalty kicks should be accepted.

In this case though, first Cummins, considered "deputy

penalty king" to Turner when in the first team, failed to score from the spot, and a few minutes later Cullen hit an upright with his attempt.

Cummins Back In His Best Form

IN the first-half, Bristol more or less held their own, and it was not until the 37th minute that Cullen headed home a Lashby centre to put his side in front.

After the interval, though, Luton got right on top. Cummins played the sort of football that must bring him back into the reckoning for a place in the League side.

If he shows similar form for his country tomorrow in Denmark, the Five selectors will be pleased that they chose him, despite the fact that he has had no First Division experience this season.

Cullen showed up well, too, and gave a bright display at inside-right in the second-half when he switched positions with Shanks, who was injured slightly.

Lashby "made" the first goal but otherwise he did not shine and Shanks gave his customary hard-working display.

The defence was more than adequate, with the half-back line in good form. Pace was outstanding here, and it appears that he is, after all, more likely to make the grade at right-half than centre-forward.

THEFT OF A COAT ALLEGED

Man Said To Have Gone To Police

A man walked into Luton police station on Sunday and said to a detective, "I've just smashed a shop window in Wellington-street and stolen this coat"—Luton Borough Magistrates were told yesterday.

The man, William Francis McKenna, 45, unemployed, of 10, Broad Street, was remanded in custody until Friday accused of breaking and entering the shop window of Gubbins at 54, Wellington-street and stealing a warehouse coat worth £12. 11d.

D.A. Miles said McKenna told him he stole the coat, "hoping to make a few bob."

McKenna was alleged to have said, "I smashed the window with a milk bottle, but somebody saw me so I thought I had better get myself up."

HALL LIGHTING

A report in the "Saturday Telegraph" saying that the St. Paul's Players were responsible for improving the lighting in the Church Hall was incorrect, the producer of the Players, Miss W. Ayres, says. It was done by the St. Paul's Project Party.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Ireland v Scotland

FOOTBALL LEAGUE

DIVISION I

Birmingham C v Manchester C
Blackpool v Sunderland
Bolton W v Arsenal
Chelsea v Sheffield W
Leeds U v Wolves
Leicester C v Everton
Luton T v Burnley
Manchester U v Aston Villa
Newcastle U v Preston N.E.
Tottenham H v Nottm Forest
West Ham v Portsmouth

DIVISION II

Blackburn R v Fulham
Bristol C v Huddersfield T
Cardiff C v Rotherham U
Gillingham v Swansea T
Lincoln C v Bristol R
Liverpool v Doncaster R
Middlesbrough v Charlton Ath
Notts Co v Derby Co
Sheffield U v Barnsley
Stoke C v Grimsby T
West Ham v Leyton O

DIVISION III (SOUTH)

Brighton v Newport Co
Coventry C v Colchester U
Exeter C v Aldershot
Gillingham v Swindon T
Millwall v Watford
Northampton T v Crystal Palace
O.P.R. v Plymouth A
Reading v Torquay U
Shrewsbury T v Brentford
Southampton v Bournemouth
Southend U v Port Vale
Walsall v Norwich C

DIVISION III (NORTH)

Aberdeen S v Oldham Ath
Bradford C v Darlington
Chester v Barrow
Charterfield v York C
Hullian T v Crues Alex
Huddersfield U v Carlisle U
Hull C v Scunthorpe U
Hull D v Bradford
Rochdale v Bury
Sheff Wed v Wrexham
Thames R v Southport
Warrington v Colchester

SCOTTISH LEAGUE

DIVISION I

Aberdeen v Airdrieonians
Clyde v Dundee
Falkirk v Hamilton
Hibernia v East Fife
Kilmarnock v Third Lanark
Motherwell v Partick Th
Queen's Park v Queen of South
Raith R v St Mirren

DIVISION II

Aldon R v East Stirling
Alloa v St Johnstone
Berwick R v Arbroath
Dundee U v Stenhousemuir
Dunfermline v Ayr U
Forfar Ath v Stirling A
Montrose v Dunbarton
Morton v Brechin C
Stranraer v Cowdenbeath

SELECTIONS

TEN HOME.—Chelsea, Manchester U, West Brom, Liverpool, Stoke, Brighton, Millwall, Bradford C, Stockport, Workington.

FOUR AWAY.—Everton, Bolton, Arsenal; Middlesbrough v Charlton; Southend v Port Vale.

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