

ALMOST UNBELIEVABLE CUP CRASH BY THE TOWN

BEATEN BY A BETTER TEAM ON THE DAY

Early Goal Shook Them, Gave County Confidence

By Chiltern

THERE are some things that are unbelievable even when there is visual proof of what is happening and, for me, the Town's Cup dismissal at Stockport comes into that category.

Right through the piece, after that shock start, it seemed only a matter of time before the Town's class would tell and they would click into their best form to hit back in the manner of which they are so capable.

But it just did not happen that way and Stockport, almost unbelievably, kept going to the end as strongly as they had been at the start.

NO wonder this result was classed immediately after the Arsenal downfall as the prime sensation of the day.

Before the match, even though they knew they were in for a grim fight, the Town could not even have envisaged the possibility of defeat.

Nor did the Stockport supporters give their team much chance and quite generous odds could have been obtained against Stockport, even from some of their most enthusiastic supporters.

What really began the Town's downfall was that sensational goal after only three minutes and it was a blow from which they never completely recovered.

Heavy Burden Of Early Reverse

IF ever there was a dramatic start this was it and Stockport got down to business from the beginning with heavy assaults which was a warning of what could be expected.

However, no one expected the Town to be shouldering the burden of a reverse so early on, and Jackson became the local hero when he ran in to head the ball with deadly accuracy into the far corner of the net after Franklin's swinging centre had gone just too high for Morton.

Town Rocked Back On Their Heels

JACKSON sensed his opportunity and accepted it brilliantly. As the ball flashed into the net past the diving Baynam, near pandemonium broke out with hats being thrown into the air and the cheering of such volume as to almost hurt the ear drums.

Naturally enough, the Town were rocked back on to the heels, but the situation was not serious yet and they began to worry Stockport, despite the fact that, always, they were faced with quick, hard tackling.

During what was probably their best spell in the match, Adam missed the simplest chance that came their way when he shot straight at Grievess from no more than eight yards.

interval when Davock struck a post and then there was a terrific scramble almost on the Town goal-line.

Second Goal Was A Terrific Blow

WITH the position unaltered at half-time, we expected some fireworks from the Town in the second half, but although they seemed to be moving rather more directly than had been the case earlier, there was not much to worry Grievess.

Then things became more serious 12 minutes after the re-start with another shock goal from Stockport.

This time a defensive mistake by Owen out on the Stockport right flank led up to it.

Owen had possession of the ball, but was robbed by Holden, who then began a long run towards goal.

Morton Switched To Centre-forward

OWEN tried in vain to overtake him, Dunne came racing across to try to intercept, but Holden kept going at the end of a run that must have taken him 40 yards and completed a brilliant piece of work by driving the ball low past Baynam.

That really set the cat amongst the pigeons and there had been little evidence from the Town that they had the punch to wipe out arrears of this sort.

So it proved, despite the fact that there was an attempt to gain more drive in the front line by switching Morton into the middle and bringing Groves back to right-half.

Expected To See An Improvement

IT is easy to be wise after the event, but it might have been wiser to effect this move at the start of the half.

However, the Town manager had every reason to believe at that stage that things would become better and that the team would click into something like their best form.

That second goal was the

FOR THE RECORDS
STOCKPORT COUNTY.. 3
Jackson, Holden (2)
LUTON TOWN..... 0
STOCKPORT COUNTY:
Grievess, Betts, Webb; Murray, Franklin, Clempson; Finney, Moir, Holden, Jackson, Davock.
LUTON TOWN: Baynam; Dunne, Hawkes; Morton, Owen, Pearce; Adam, Turner, Brown, Groves, McLeod.
Referee: E. Crawford, Doncaster. Attendance 18,200.

mortal blow because although the Town fought back, they could not carve out clear-cut openings and it was seldom that their dire position looked as if it might be improved.

In fact, it did not need a third goal to ensure Stockport's participation in the fourth round.

Holden Completed Town Depression

HOWEVER, it came seven minutes from the end just to round off a depressing day for the Town, when the busy Holden was left with a great chance in front of goal as the result of a quick pass by Finney who had wandered to the inside-left position.

Holden made no bones about crashing the ball into the net and there was further unbounded enthusiasm from the home fans who have not had so much to shout about for years.

So, there it was. Yet another Cup shock and a very unpalatable one for the Town, who are losing their reputation for being fine Cup-fighters.

Out In The Third Round Once Again

IN three consecutive seasons, they have found the third round hurdle too much for them, and this defeat is doubly unfortunate since it came at a time when enthusiasm for football in the town had been roused by good performances in League matches.

Stockport officials admitted that their team had played well above themselves and that they deserved to win well, there was no ground for argument at all.

On the day, they were by far the more effective side and they showed no signs whatever of an inferiority complex against their First Division opponents.

Enthusiastic Crowd Helped Stockport

OF course, that first goal helped them tremendously and so did the enthusiasm of the crowd that was so firmly behind them. Almost every time a Stockport player kicked the ball there was wild cheering and this must have

been a matter of great encouragement to the home players.

Wearing Wolves' colours, they played like them, and it was obvious that their plan was to throw the Town out of gear by wasting not a second in the tackle.

If one man failed to dispossess a Town player, there was another close at hand to complete the process and this was something the Town never got over.

Should Have Varied Their Tactics

APART from patches during the first half, the Town never moved with the smoothness and cohesion they showed against Arsenal and it was difficult to reconcile the difference in the two displays.

What it boiled down to was that the Town played as well as they were allowed, but they made a mistake in not varying their tactics when it became obvious that they were getting nowhere fast.

They continued to keep the ball close, made overmuch use of the short pass and there was a lot too much running with the ball in the mud into the bargain.

Expected Weakness Did Not Occur

IDEA before the match was that victory could be gained by exploiting what was thought to be a weakness down the Stockport middle.

That was good theory, but the trouble was that the weakness just did not show up and Stockport, obviously expecting something of the sort, plugged the middle tight.

When Franklin, who had a great match, was beaten and that was not all that often, there was always someone covering, and this part of the Town plan spluttered and then finally gave out.

What should have happened, of course, was that the wingers should have appreciated this state of affairs but, like the rest of the team, they were below their best.

Team Never Reached Their Best Form

ON this occasion, it is impossible to put one's finger on one position and point to a weakness that was fatal.

The plain fact was that the team as a whole never reached its best form, or rather maybe it was never allowed to do so, and the upshot was one of the most disappointing results that has happened to the Town in years.

For the defence, there was a harassing time against the quick thrusts of the Stockport forwards, who kept moving the ball accurately and making it do the

work instead of as the Town did so often, trying to drag it through the mud.

Owen Was Worried By Holden

KING-PIN of the attack was Holden, who had Owen looking more worried than for a very long time.

Continually Holden took the ball up to the centre-half before making contact with his inside colleagues, and he led the line brilliantly.

Nor did Morton and Pearce obtain the grip they have had on opposing inside-forwards.

Jackson, poaching about in the penalty area, was a continual source of danger, and although there was a lot of work from the Town wing-halves, they were not the dominant force they were expected to be.

Not The Occasion For Clever Football

ANOTHER danger man was the nippy, direct Davock, who was a source of trouble to Dunne, and both wingers were given rather more room to work in than necessary, though Hawkes was more rugged in the tackle.

Baynam could not be blamed for this defeat, because he was left helpless when the goals came, and he made several gallant saves from these hard-hitting forwards.

Certainly there was some clever football from the Town, especially in midfield, but this was one of those occasions in difficult, greasy conditions when delicate football was more of a handicap than an asset.

Turner Was Always Closely Watched

STOCKPORT showed the way by banging the ball about, and there always seemed to be more purpose about their play, though how they would have reacted to a goal being scored against them is difficult to say, but at least it would have been a considerable confidence sapper.

Unfortunately, we never had the opportunity to judge, and the ace marksman, Turner, was too closely marked to add to his quota of goals.

Only once can I remember him being allowed a clear shot at goal. For the rest of the time he was pretty effectively blanketed out, and although Brown had two or three shots, Franklin came out on top from the battle, and Groves had little to show in the end for a lot of hard work and endeavour.

Reserves Lacked Finishing Power

THERE was nothing very inspiring about the Reserves' 2-2 draw with Fulham Reserves at Kenilworth-road.

Had they taken even half their

chances they would have built up a commanding lead well before the interval, but as it was openings were squandered, and half-time was reached without a goal being scored.

Luton looked impressive for the first 20 minutes or so, and their play—until they reached the Fulham penalty area—was very good indeed.

There was purpose and bite about their approach work, but they faded badly once they got within shooting range.

Cullen's Goals In Town Rally

IT came as a bit of a shock when Fulham scored twice in five minutes after the interval, but the lesson was there for all to see—that chances are meant to be converted into goals—and Jones, an amateur centre-forward, and Jimmy Bowie, former Chelsea

Watford and Bedford Town player, gave Marsh no chance from close range.

Rallying, Luton hit back and Cullen headed a neat goal. A little before the end Cullen scored again to save a point which should never have been in jeopardy.

Fulham fielded a strong side, including Alex Forbes, who was one of their strongest defenders.

A representative of Second Division side, Grimsby Town, watched Luton's Leslie Jones and said after the match that he would report back to the Grimsby Board this week.

Rugby

Bedfordshire Schoolboys Make Changes

Beaten by 16 points to three by Buckinghamshire at Halton on Saturday, Bedfordshire Schoolboys' rugby team shows four changes for the match against Cambridgeshire boys at Vauxhall tomorrow.

Waddingham (Cedars) moves from the wing to the centre, and another Cedars boy, A. Smith, comes in on the wing.

In the pack J. Salmon, of Luton Grammar School, is brought in to the second row and Stratton schoolboy A. W. B. Moore moves from the second row to wing-forward.

The team is: A. W. J. Norcott (B.M.S.); A. Smith (Cedars); A. Waddingham (Cedars); M. Blackburn (L.G.S.); R. J. Slaughter (B.M.S.); W. P. Evans (L.G.S.) (capt.); R. Clements (B.M.C.); T. C. Flitton (L.G.S.); M. W. Harry (L.G.S.); H. I. Mote (B.M.S.); J. Salmon (L.G.S.); M. Hall (L.G.S.); A. W. B. Moore (Stratton); J. Burnett (Cedars); J. E. Norris (Cedars).

Reserves: J. Bichener (B.M.S.); Morris, Moore (D.G.S.).

Missed Chance Was The Turning Point

LOOKING back, I should say that this miss was the turning point because an equaliser at that stage would have been the tonic the Town so badly needed.

Had they scored, it would have settled them and increased their confidence while having the opposite effect on Stockport.

In fact, a goal at any time while their arrears were still only one goal would have produced a vastly different result, I am certain.

However, Stockport came nearest to scoring during some hectic pressure just before the

Greyhound Racing

Trap 5 Was The Unlucky One At Luton On Saturday

TRAP 5 was the only one to draw a blank at Luton Stadium on Saturday. Trap 2 was the most successful, with three winners.

I (410yds.)—1, SUNPARK (2); 2, Sammy (5); 3, Miss Patience (3); 4, Ray's Girl (1), reserve; 5, Junior (4); 6, Lucky Jim (6). 1, 3, 3, 1. 25.67. Off 6.49.
Betting: 5-4 SUNPARK; 3-1 Junior; 4-1 Ray's Girl; 5-1 Lucky Jim; 6-1 others.
Forecast £1 18s. 9d.

II (470yds.)—1, PAGE ONE (6); 2, Office Boy (5); 3, Westfield Boy (3); 4, Picture Lady (1); 5, Fly Miss (2); 6, Shiner (4). 8, 2, 2, 2. Off 7.09.
Betting: 7-4 Shiner; 5-2 Office Boy; 3-1 Fly Miss; 7-2 PAGE ONE; 8-1 others.
Forecast £1 3s. 6d.

III (410yds.)—1, GAYNOR (6); 2, Time Limit (3); 3, Rita (2); 4, Johnny B. (4); 5, Hay Time (1), reserve; 6, Fanny Adams (5). 4, 5, 2, 5, 4. 25.40. Non-runner, Cough Drop (1). Off 7.30.
Betting: 4-5 GAYNOR; 3-1 Time Limit; 4-1 Johnny B.; 6-1 Rita; 10-1 others.
Forecast 14s. 3d.

IV (470yds.)—1, THE CASE (2); 2, My Guinness (4); 3, Hawk Eye (6); 4, Light and Light (5). 3, 3, 3, 3. 28.33. Non-runners, Martin X (1), Bally Fairy (3). Off 7.49.
Betting: 2-1 My Guinness; 9-4 THE CASE, Hawk Eye; 4-1 Light and Light.
Forecast 15s. 6d.

V (470yds.)—1, HONEY (5); 2, Scatty (1); 3, Derek (4); 4, Dust Coat (3); 5, Wings (2); 6, Peter Pan (6). 2, 1, 6, 3, 4, 27.80. Off 8.08.
Betting: 7-4 Derek; 2-1 Scatty; 4-1 HONEY; 5-1 Wings; 6-1 Dust Coat; 10-1 Peter Pan.
Forecast £2 7s. 9d.

VI (410yds.)—1, RASPUTIN (2); 2, My Goodness (4); 3, Quaint (6); 4, Run On (3). 1, 4, 1. 25.14. Non-runners, Sheila's Choice (1), Persil (5), Joyful, reserve. Off 8.28.
Betting: 6-4 Run On; 2-1 Quaint; 3-1 RASPUTIN; 5-1 My Goodness.
Forecast £2 11s. 6d.

VII (470yds.)—1, THE PURSE (3); 2, Coral Bead (6); 3, Topper (5); 4, Poppy (2); 5, Double R (4). 3, 1, 4, 4. 28.58. Non-runner, Puzzle (1). Off 8.46.
Betting: 5-4 THE PURSE; 7-2 Coral Bead; 4-1 Topper; 5-1 Double R; 6-1 Poppy.
Forecast 11s. 6d.

VIII (410yds.)—1, FAWN JIM (1); 2, Arden Girl (5); 3, Very Useful (2); 4, Holiday Fun (4); 5, Ever Ready (6); 6, Ryan's Rose (3), reserve. 5, 6, 2, 1, 5. 25.03. Non-runner, Cuba (3). Off 9.04.
Betting: 5-2 FAWN JIM, Holiday Fun, Ever Ready; 5-1 Arden Girl; 7-1 Ryan's Rose; 8-1 Very Useful.
Forecast £5 4s. 3d.

RUNNERS AND SELECTIONS FOR LUTON STADIUM TONIGHT
7.30 (410 yds.)—533 Drumbuc; 54 Hymiss; Late Profit (Dec 28, tp 6, 24.81, Dec 31, tp 5, 24.86); 155 Old Felar; 333 Old Timer; 2 Trigger reserve 656 Crackings.
7.48 (470 yds.)—465 Ballerino; 16 Heavyweight; 312 Lion's Head; 516 N. Reply; 312 Snooky Joe; 353 Betty.
8.06 (410 yds.)—414 Blue Jet; 15 Fish and Chips; 655 Little Willie; 136 Rabbit; 262 Relect; 222 The Orphan.
8.24 (470 yds.)—346 Bally Fairy; 124 Coniston; 356 Hi Gang; 4 Montana; 134 Netta; 635 Robin Hood.
8.44 (470 yds.)—123 Derek; 44 Duffie Coat; 4 Jamie; 41 Mechak; 12 Nerve Tonic; 114 Red Rascal.
9.04 (410 yds.)—2 Ash Tray; 11 Forecase (Dec 19, tp 6, 24.63); 534 Laxton Superb; 211 Nice Fella; 215 Tom-Pom; 411 Tomto.
9.22 (470 yds.)—532 Austin; 254 Irene; 253 New Mexico; 33 No Joke; 3 Sorrowful; 555 Who Cares.
9.40 (410 yds.)—322 Bobby A.; 234 Easy Easton; 421 Golden Sun; 256 Joyful; 156 Rose Royale; 5 Tea Cossy.

SELECTIONS
TEN HOME.—Bolton, Manchester C., Leyton O., Middlesbrough, Brighton, Port Vale, Southampton, Scunthorpe, Tranmere, York.
FOUR AWAY.—Manchester Utd., Blackburn, Reading, Bury.
THREE DRAWS.—Preston v West Bromwich, Bristol R. v Sheffield Utd., Brentford v Norwich.

CHILTERN'S FORECASTS

DIVISION I
Arsenal v Blackpool
Aston Villa v Sunderland
Bolton W. v Leicester C.
Burnley v Tottenham H.
Chelsea v Everton
Leeds Utd v Manchester U.
Manchester C. v Nottingham F.
Newcastle Utd v Birmingham C.
Preston N.E. v West Bromwich
Sheffield Wed. v Portsmouth
Wolves v Luton T.

DIVISION II
Bristol R. v Sheffield Utd
Charlton Ath. v Stoke C.
Derby Co. v West Ham
Doncaster R. v Grimsby T.
Leyton O. v Bristol C.
Lincoln C. v Blackburn R.
Liverpool v Fulham
Middlesbrough v Cardiff C.
Nottingham F. v Ipswich T.
Norwich Utd v Huddersfield T.
Swansea T. v Barnsley

DIVISION III (SOUTH)
Aldershot v Reading
Brighton v Norwich C.
Brighton v Q.P.R.
Colchester Utd v Southend Utd
Crystal Palace v Walsall
Newport Co. v Gillingham
Northampton T. v Shrewsbury T.
Plymouth A. v Swindon T.
Port Vale v Millwall
Southampton v Exeter C.
Torquay Utd v Bournemouth
Watford v Coventry C.

DIVISION III (NORTH)
Barrow v Stockport Co.
Barnford v Chester
Carlisle Utd v Accrington S.

Crewe Alex. v Workington
Hull City v Hull City
Hartlepool Utd v Chesterfield
Rochdale v Bradford C.
Scunthorpe Utd v Gateshead
Southport v Bury
Wrexham v Mansfield T.
Tranmere R. v Darlington
York C. v Oldham Ath.

SCOTTISH LEAGUE
DIVISION I
Aberdeen v St. Mirren
Clydebank v Airdrieonians
Falkirk v Third Lanark
Hearts v Partick T.
Kilmarnock v Dundee
Motherwell v Celtic
Queen's Park v East Fife
Rangers v Hibernian

DIVISION II
Albion R. v Stenhousemuir
Alloa v Hamilton
Berwick R. v Brechin C.
Dundee U. v Dumbarton
Dunfermline v East Stirling
Forfar Ath. v Ayr Utd
Montrose v Stirling A.
Morton v St. Johnstone
Stranraer v Arbroath



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