

Town Keep Unbeaten Record

FIGHT-BACK AFTER FAGAN SHOCK GOAL

Groves Equalises, But Line Did Not Click

Manchester City - 1 Luton Town - 1
By Chiltern

PARTLY because of injuries to Trautmann and Johnstone, and partly because of dissatisfaction with recent displays, Manchester City made seven changes, three of them positional, for their match with the Town at Maine-road, Manchester, last night.

Recalled to first-team duty for the first time this season was Roy Warhurst, the former Birmingham City wing-half, and both Barlow and McAdams found new positions in the attack.

On the other hand, the Town, free from injury, fielded the same team for the sixth consecutive match.

City's extended floodlighting was in use for the first time. New pylons have been installed on each stand on the sides of the ground.

Teams:

LUTON: Baynham; Dunne, Hawkes; Morton, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Turner, Brown, Groves, Adam.

MANCHESTER CITY: Fleet; Leivers, Sear; Barnes, Ewing, Warhurst; Fagan, Barlow, McAdams, Hayes, Sambrook.

Referee: Mr. R. H. Wimple, of Chesterfield.

Jack Crompton, the club's former trainer, who is now trainer-coach with Manchester United sat in the directors' box with the Town officials.

There was a sensational start, because the Town were a goal down in the first minute.

It was the result of a long, sweeping movement begun by Barnes and carried on by McAdams to FAGAN, who raced in from the wing to beat Baynham with a hard, low shot that beat the goalkeeper's left hand.

So Fagan, an Eire international, celebrated his first appearance in the senior team this season.

TOWN APPEAL FOR PENALTY

Things were certainly happening, for in the next minute the Town had a claim for a penalty for hands by Leivers turned down.

Fast up-and-down play continued to be the order, and Brown narrowly missed connecting with a low cross from Adam.

But the City forwards in full flight were looking dangerous.

In fact, the Town had a remarkable escape from Fagan who actually dribbled round Baynham to face an empty net. Somehow, Dunne scuttled back in the nick of time to pull the ball off the goal-line.

Despite the absence of Johnstone, City were still pinning their faith on the deep-lying centre-forward plan.

TOWN ON TERMS

There was some neat approach work from the Town, with the right wing prominent, but it did not carry much threat until the 25th minute, when GROVES equalised.

The movement began with a throw-in from Dunne. Pacey pushed the ball through to Groves, who, from the inside-right position, beat Fleet with a shot into the far corner of the net.

So the Town had retrieved their bad start, but City came back strongly and several high passes went into the goalmouth to cause the Town defence some trouble.

Much of the Town's work in midfield continued to be impressive, but they were not forceful enough at close quarters against some rugged, and often robust, tackling.

Hayes missed a chance of restoring the City's lead when he shot over from ten yards, following clever work by Sambrook.

Then, in a quick Town burst, Groves, on the half-turn, sent wide from Adam's pass.

Then the Town had a goal disallowed for offside when Bingham

How The Goals Came

FAGAN for Manchester City after 1 minute.
GROVES for Luton after 25 minutes.

O
got home with a brilliant diving header, but there was no dispute about the decision.

BRILLIANT BAYNHAM

In the next minute, only a brilliant save by Baynham at point-blank range kept out a header by McAdams from a centre by the dangerous Fagan.

For a time the City were on top and there was the need for desperate measures by the Town defence inside their own penalty area.

When the Town replied, Fleet needed two attempts to stop a shot by Bingham, and was a bit fortunate to succeed.

The later stages of the match were even, and some of the City's speed in attack had slackened.

It had been a hard-fought first half, with the Town defence putting up a spirited performance. Half-time:

MANCHESTER CITY... 1
LUTON TOWN 1

Early play in the second half was fairly even. Fleet saved from Turner, and at the other end Fagan shot just wide.

Defences were much on top, though I had the feeling that could the Town forwards drift into gear they could win the game. However, movements broke down because of passes going astray at the last moment. Mainly, they were trying the route down the middle, which has been successful against most opposition previously, and the wingers were not being brought into the game as much as they might.

OWEN AND REFEREE INJURED

In a sudden raid, Barnes pulled the ball just wide, with Owen injured after colliding with him. His right leg was damaged and there was quite a hold-up before he could resume, disappointing the second consecutive match, we saw the referee injured, when Pacey, straining through, collided with him. He had to be attended to before he could continue.

Groves shot over from a good position. Basically, attacks by both teams were being broken up before shots could be made.

A shot from Turner was deflected by a defender on to a post with Fleet beaten.

Fleet saved over. Result: Groves shot over. Result:

MANCHESTER CITY... 1
LUTON TOWN 1