

BINGHAM'S GOAL WAS A TOWN LIFE-SAVER

Late Goal Gave Them Deserved Second Chance

By Chiltern

LEICESTER CITY 1, LUTON TOWN 1

WHEN, as this match at Filbert-street moved into its final phase, Bingham was moved into the middle, the Town took a big step towards gaining a second chance.

At that stage, they were trailing a goal behind and looked as if they might very easily go down to what would have been a most unlucky defeat.

But then the persistence and determination of Bingham saved the day with only 13 minutes to spare.

There was not much sign of a goal when he chased a long, through pass that either Cunningham or Maclaren should have cleared with ease.

However, there was hesitation on the part of both, and BINGHAM stuck out a foot to glide the ball into the net and send about 3,000 Town fans wild with delight.

Had the Town been dismissed, it would have been a rank injustice but in keeping with their usual fate on this ground, because they were much the better team in the pure football sense.

On a frozen-hard ground they moved with altogether more confidence than Leicester and made for themselves several scoring chances of which better use should have been made, and probably would have been in more favourable conditions.

Attacking the goalmouth that was not so frozen as the one at the other end, in the first half, the Town had spells of heavy pressure during which the Leicester goal had three or four narrow escapes.

There should have been a goal when Pacey crossed the ball low and both Morton and Brown missed it, and there was another occasion when Pacey was about a foot too high with a great shot.

Then, bang on the stroke of half-time, Gregory worked his way goalwards and, with Maclaren out of position, Baillie cleared off the line.

CITY'S SHOCK GOAL

With five minutes of the second half gone, there came a shock goal for the City through MCNEILL, who headed the ball well wide of Baynham's left hand after it had crossed and re-crossed the goalmouth without being cleared.

Hitting back hard, the Town missed a chance of drawing level when a shot from Gregory rebounded off Maclaren and neither Brown nor Morton could reach it.

Twice Maclaren was lucky to save, once when Brown thrust his way through and then when King made a sharp back pass.

Then, when hopes were fading, came the Bingham switch and the ultimate success.

After that, with the Town tending to concentrate on defence, Leicester made a determined bid to regain their lead, but although there were one or two tense moments, the Town defence held out.

In fact, throughout there was a strong display from this compact defence in which the half-back line provided a very solid foundation.

Owen was too good for Hines, who had few chances, and both Groves and Pacey were very much in command in the middle of the field.

This meant that the threat from the Leicester inside-forward trio, who showed few constructive ideas, was cut down materially and both McNally and Hawkes

were fully capable of dealing with the wingers.

Compared with the amount of work Maclaren had, Baynham had a comparatively unworried afternoon, but he did make one thrilling diving save during the second-half.

It was a game that never promised to produce a crop of goals because the difficult conditions were unsuitable to accurate forward play.

Turning quickly was almost an impossibility and so was control, with the ball bouncing awkwardly on the frozen turf.

From Bingham, there was always the promise of danger because he had the measure of Baillie, but the fact that he had to lose balance on so many occasions after rounding the full back, cut down the accuracy of his finishing.

However, a close watch always had to be kept on him and Gregory, with not the best of support on this occasion, improved in the second half after not having a very productive time before the interval.

Except when he tried to be too elaborate, as he did at times, Cummins was a clever schemer, but Morton did not seem at all happy in these conditions, especially in the second half and he spent the last quarter of an hour on the wing.

From Brown, who is happier when the ball is sticking, there was a lot of hard work in mid-field, but a lack of snap in front of goal.

LEICESTER CITY: Maclaren; Cunningham, Baillie; Newman, King, Keyworth; Riley, Kelly, Hines, McNeill, Leek.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Hawkes; Groves, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Brown, Morton, Cummins, Gregory.

Referee: W. Hickson, Wigan.

Attendance: 36,984.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"No complaints about this performance, Luton." This was the general comment from the newspaper critics who watched Luton earn a replay with Leicester on Saturday. They also agree that the Town were the more skilful and constructive combination.

"Luton deserved to draw, for they were by far the better side before the interval. . . . On this showing the odds are slightly on Luton in Wednesday's floodlit replay but, remember, Leicester have always been their bogey team."—"The People,"

"More by luck than Soccer skill, Leicester earned a replay on Wednesday. They were never in the same class as Luton, although in the second half they did manage one or two spirited attacking moves which might have been dangerous for a defence weaker than Luton's."—"Sunday Dispatch."

"Luton may perhaps think themselves unlucky to have to replay, as in the later stages they controlled the game and did everything but score. But they had only themselves to blame, for several gilt-edged chances went astray."—"News of the World."

"Luton carried more polish and deftness, and it is clear that their wingers will take some holding if conditions are reasonable on Wednesday."—"Sunday Express."

"Even Leicester faithfuls admitted Luton deserved the replay. They kept trying to play football on a skating rink, and often succeeded."—"Daily Express."