

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.

OWEN POINTS THE WAY FOR LUTON

By Jack Welling

LEICESTER 1, LUTON 1

GIVE Sid Owen that manager's job, Luton. He kept the Town on the Wembley Road not only by his near-perfect centre-half display on a skating rink but by his canny moving of Billy Bingham to centre-forward in the last quarter of an hour.

The Irish international's speed was drawn into the middle to unsettle the Leicester defence and the switch served its purpose within two minutes.

As Bingham chased a George Cummins free-kick down the middle the two backs converged on him and the goalkeeper advanced.

When Bill Cunningham went to tackle, the ball struck Bingham's legs and trickled in.

Leicester had gone ahead after five minutes, and as they were attacking the softer end of the ground they might have expected more goals.

In the first-half they had skidded all over the place when they were playing into the ice-bound area under the double-decker stand.

Their goal was a beauty initiated by the bridegroom Private, Howard Riley of the Royal Leicestershire Regiment.

The ball moved on from him

via Derek Hines and Ken Leek until late choice Ian McNeill dived at the left-winger's cross and headed through.

Luton deserved to draw for they were by far the better side before the interval.

Owen has never given better service and experienced George Cummins and lively Dave Pacey were better than any of the Leicester players.

What is more Dave Maclaren had far more handling to do in the home goal than Ron Baynham.

No final punch

Leicester's early goal gave them confidence but they never pressed home their attacks as far as the goalkeeper.

Maclaren, on the other hand, had several anxious moments. Once he was completely beaten by a back-pass from Ken Keyworth but luckily for him the ball struck him on a knee.

In Bingham and Brown Luton had an all-international right-wing against whom left-back Joe Baillie gave a sterling display.

On this showing the odds are slightly on Luton in Wednesday's floodlit replay but remember, Leicester have always been their bogey team.

LEICESTER. — Maclaren 7; Cunningham 7, ★BAILLIE 8; Newman 7, King 7, Keyworth 7; Riley 7, Kelly 6, Hines 7, McNeill 7, Leek 6.

LUTON. — Baynham 6; McNally 6, Hawkes 6; Groves 7, ★OWEN 9, Pacey 8; Bingham 7, Brown 6, Morton 6, Cummins 8, Gregory 6.

Referee: W. Hickson (Wigan) 8.