

Defensive Weaknesses Can Be Exposed

HAD that late equaliser not come, then the Town would have been the most unfortunate team in the world.

On at least four occasions, the Leicester goal had escapes which came into the miraculous category and their defence showed fundamental weaknesses which should be exposed to the full tomorrow night, especially if there is an improvement in the state of the going.

Nor were their forwards able to make much impression on the Town defence, which was extremely strong and fully in command, apart from that occasion when Leicester snatched a goal all against the run of the play.

First Goal Might Have Been Decisive

THAT came as a distinct shock five minutes after half-time and was the direct result of a couple of defensive mistakes that could be put down entirely to the state of the pitch.

Twice the ball crossed the Town goal until McNeill bent low to head it into the far corner of the net.

That looked to be a tragic happening for the Town, who had been by far the better team, but had not been able to make the fullest use of two or three good chances.

At half-time, we had been saying that the first goal in this hard battle might very well be decisive, and so it looked as Leicester held out against mounting pressure.

Bingham Switch Did The Trick

THREE times their goal escaped in the most fortunate possible fashion, and I had begun to think that the Town's Cup career had come to an end for this season, when Bingham suddenly produced that life-saving goal.

A few minutes earlier he had switched with Morton, and it was really very much of a forlorn hope when he chased what seemed to be a loose ball.

However, there was hesitation on the part of both Cunningham and Maclaren, and the upshot was that Bingham was able to take advantage of it and tap the ball into the net.

Town Played Nearly All The Football

BINGHAM was almost mobbed by his delighted colleagues, and that opportunistic goal repaid a further slice of the transfer fee he cost from Sunderland.

There were a few tense moments after that goal, which came 13 minutes from time, because the Town rather tended to fall back on to defence in their endeavour to maintain equality.

However, they came through and were able to give Leicester one or two further shocks before the end came.

Certainly, the Town deserved to have another chance, because nearly all the football that this match produced came from them.

Great Display By Half-back Line

THERE was always more order and cohesion about their work in midfield and, by con-

FOR THE RECORDS

LEICESTER CITY 1
McNeill

LUTON TOWN 1
Bingham

LEICESTER CITY: Mac-laren; 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.

trast, Leicester pinned their faith on kick-and-rush tactics.

These were comfortably dealt with by a Town defence that was in tremendous form.

Time and again, the half-back line brought to a sudden stop moves by the Leicester inside-forwards, and the tackling of Groves, Owen and Pacey gave the inside-forward trio little respite and little hope of making real progress.

From the start, Groves and Pacey obtained the midfield grip that is so necessary in any match, let alone a Cup-tie.

Owen Had Complete Grip On Hines

CONTINUALLY, they stepped in promptly with strong tackling and, several times, Pacey came through with the ball.

In fact one of his runs should have brought a goal because the ball came across low and was missed by both Morton and Brown.

In the middle, Owen was completely dominating, to such an effect that there was scarcely any danger from Hines, who was beaten continually.

More than that, the fine head-work of the Town's middle line was of the utmost value, especially as the ball was, of necessity, so much in the air.

Full-backs Were In Unyielding Mood

A STRONG half-back line is the foundation of any team and the Town certainly had it on this occasion.

Another display like this from these three tomorrow and the Town should be well on the way to a place in the fifth round.

Behind them, McNally and Hawkes were very solid and very hard in the tackle, so that the wingers had little scope.

Riley had quite a lot of the ball in the second half but he tended to play into the hands of the Town defence by running with it and holding on too long.

McNally, of course, is a rare fighter and so is Hawkes, and they were both most tenacious and unyielding in their efforts.

Forwards Bothered By The Conditions

PROBABLY the coldest player on the field in the first half was Baynham, who was rarely tested by the Leicester forwards, who found their raids broken up long before they could reach shooting range.

There was rather more for him to do afterwards, when the Leicester forwards had the benefit of the softer going, and he made one brilliant diving save.

Conditions, of course, were all against forwards, who found the utmost difficulty in turning quickly.

On better going Bingham would have been a complete menace to Baillie, whom he was able to beat comfortably enough, but several times the fact that he was just off balance caused his centres to go astray.

Bingham Held Most Potential Danger

AT the same time, Bingham was always the forward who carried the most potential threat, and it was a match-saving move to switch him into the middle near the end.

His lighter physique enabled him to be a greater threat than had been Morton, who could not settle down in these conditions.

This was most marked after half-time, when he had the badly-frozen surface with which to contend.

Most accomplished ball-playing inside-forward on view was Cummins, who, however, tended to try to do too much and was robbed several times for his pains.

Defence Was Prone To Panic

WHEN he did use the ball quickly, he usually managed to put the Leicester defence into a panic and they were prone to this quite often.

Gregory did not see much of the ball during the first half but, when he did, could not achieve accuracy with his centres and wasted quite a lot of material.

He did better in the second half when he showed that he could beat Cunningham for speed.

Brown tried hard, managed to serve up the material for Bingham, but was not crisp enough in his finishing, though.