

DRAMATIC START WAS AS HEADY AS WINE

Three In Five Minutes Spell Wrecked Ipswich

By Chiltern

IPSWICH TOWN 2, LUTON TOWN 5

FURTHER progress in the Cup, to take them into the last eight for the third time in their history, was celebrated with champagne in the Town dressing room after the match, but the wine was scarcely as heady as the events that took place in the most sensational opening to a match I can remember.

Five times in the first 17 minutes, the ball was in the back of the net and with the Town claiming four of the goals, they had staked their claim for a place in the last eight.

Scarcely had the match begun than Baynham was picking the ball out of the Town net after an unmarked REES had coolly headed home a centre made from the right by Crawford.

This was unpleasantly reminiscent of Stockport last season, but before we had time to develop dark thoughts on this subject, the balance had been re-adjusted.

Unnecessarily, Snell pulled down PACEY just outside the penalty area, and, taking the free kick, the left-half found a gap in the Ipswich line-up and beat Bailey with a great drive.

Only two minutes had ticked away when that happened, and these goals were the forerunner of an amazing burst of scoring.

In the course of five minutes, between the 13th and the 17th, the Town scored three times, to rock all Ipswich and send their 7,000 followers wild with joy.

MORTON began it by fastening on to a rebound of a Brown shot, after Cummins and Bingham had combined neatly, and a minute later BINGHAM, in true spring-heeled fashion, got above Malcolm to head a centre from Gregory into the far corner of the net.

Three minutes later, GREGORY raced through with a pass from Brown and drove the ball low into the far corner as two defenders converged on him.

IPSWICH FOUGHT BACK

Creditably, Ipswich fought back hard to try to improve their most unenviable position and went far too close for comfort when Leadbetter headed on to the top of the bar.

However, that was the only real scare, and the Town, the better, more incisive side all the first half, went close to securing further goals.

Much of the Town's first-half work was stamped with the hallmark of brilliance and they maintained their three-goal advantage until half-time.

When the second half began, Ipswich, who had been playing some quite attractive midfield football, most of it too square, began to hit the ball forward and follow up hard.

Faced with this dash and bustle, the Town could not regain their smooth stride and the Ipswich fight was rewarded in the 56th minute when REES obtained his second goal.

The chance was virtually handed to him on a plate by Groves, who paid the penalty of using a too short pass in trying to find Owen and Crawford intercepted. Quickly, he pushed the ball through and Rees did the rest by sweeping it past Baynham.

Another goal quickly after that would have presented a different picture entirely, but there was not much immediate danger of that, though Baynham once had to throw himself at the feet of Crawford, as the centre-forward was preparing to shoot.

BACK INTO THE GROOVE

As the end approached, the Town slipped back into the groove and Ipswich had a couple of escapes before MORTON finally headed number five from Bingham's centre seven minutes from the end.

So it was a comfortable victory that the Town gained, but it was not won without a fight, because Ipswich never gave up their forlorn hope until that final goal.

Despite having rather a rough passage and collecting several bruises, Bingham was much too clever for Malcolm and whenever he got the ball it was panic stations for the home defence.

Whenever possible, the ball was worked out to him and he was a continual source of anxiety. So, too, was Cummins, with his scheming and slide-rule passes and Belcher never really took a secure grip on him.

Taking a lot of the weight off the others, Morton linked up the forward line, and his two goals, both well taken, following his two of the previous week, are a clear indication that he has now settled down in the middle again.

Although Brown was not among the scorers on this occasion, he did a great deal of hard

and useful work, had a hand in at least a couple of goals, and kept Bingham well supplied with material.

On the other wing, Gregory scored a good goal, as he is always likely to do with his accurate shooting, but he was rather inclined to take too long in which to control the ball which helped considerably the quick-tackling Carberry.

Perhaps because of that early shock goal, the defence as a whole did not look so immaculate as it can be.

However, they had the advantage of the generalship and dominance of Owen, who held Crawford extremely well, and some resolute tackling and good distribution from Pacey.

After his splendid run of consistency, it was strange to see Groves have an off-day, but they come to everybody at some time or another.

Without looking completely confident, both McNally and Hawkes were rugged, stubborn fighters, and behind them there was always Baynham to inspire confidence with the fine way in which he cut out crosses and his excellent anticipation generally.

IPSWICH TOWN: Bailey; Carberry, Malcolm; Belcher, Snell, Johnstone; Berry, Millward, Crawford, Rees, Leadbetter.

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

Referee: K. Collinge, Sale. Attendance: 26,700.

Fight they did, and it was no easy victory for the Town, who could never afford to relax, even when they were three goals ahead