

MISSED NEEDED WIN BY FOUR MINUTES

Town Held Lead Three Times At Leicester

By CHILTERN

LEICESTER CITY 3, LUTON TOWN 3

JUST four minutes stood between the Town and what would have been two invaluable points in their struggle to get away from the foot of the First Division table.

Three times during this desperate match, they held the lead and three times Leicester hit back to equalise, the last coming in the 86th minute, just when a Town victory was beginning to look certain.

In a scrappy first half, almost the only cool thinking movement enabled the Town to go ahead after 20 minutes through BINGHAM when he kept his head in fastening on to a defence-splitting pass by Brown and steered the ball past the oncoming Banks.

Signs of the tension that existed were plain to see from the number of passes that were misplaced, and the City were bigger offenders in this respect than were the Town, who deserved to be ahead at half-time.

However, the situation changed in the first minute of the second half, when Leicester gained new hope by drawing level.

A corner on the left was only

half-cleared and the ball went out to APPLETON, whose lob from 25 yards caught Collier out of his goal and the ball went over his head and into the net.

Six minutes later the Town were in front again as the result of a beautiful movement begun by Daniel with a sweeping pass to Gregory.

With Bingham racing down the centre-forward position, Gregory parted with the ball at exactly the right moment, and Bingham pushed it across for the oncoming BROWN to steer it in.

For some time it looked as if that would be the goal to count because there was no further scoring for 23 minutes, and then Leicester drew level again unexpectedly when WILLS let fly and the ball swerved in the air, leaving Collier helpless.

That was another shock to the Town, but the effect of it was relieved two minutes later when PACEY, from the edge of the penalty area, drove the ball in left-footed and low, with splendid timing, after it had come over from the right in a movement begun by Dunne.

Town fans must have thought that surely that was the end of Leicester, but they fought back and deprived the Town of a point during a scramble in front of goal after Collier had come out to clear and was not able to get a grip on the ball.

At the time, there was some doubt about the scorer because of a confusion in the penalty area and it required a dressing room check to reveal that it was McDONALD.

WELL-TAKEN GOALS

From the Town point of view, the value of this performance lay in the fact that they scored three times for the first time in a League match this season and all the goals were well taken.

Maybe, this will bring increased confidence to an attack that moved well at times, though further consideration may have to be given to it.

Brown was an improvement at centre-forward because he worked intelligently, but Morton, though he was a willing worker, and did much foraging, does not really look the complete answer.

Nor was Turner very happy on his return to inside-left, though he did make a couple of shots in his old style.

Best of the forwards and indeed the best attacker on the field was Bingham, who was always a source of danger and Gregory had some spells in which he needed careful watching.

I fancy that, to some extent, the confidence of the defence was affected by the absence of Baynham because Collier is not yet equal in the air and there always seemed a threat when Leicester ballooned the ball into the penalty area.

Kelly did a good job against Keyworth and Pacey settled down after an uneasy start, while Groves who did not show quite enough decision in parting with the ball, was always in the thick of it.

For Dunne, there was the not inconsiderable task of keeping quiet Wills, Leicester's most dangerous forward and a very good job he made of it.

While Daniel was not quite so outstanding as he has been, he came through well, too, and little danger emanated from McDonald.

LEICESTER CITY: Banks; Chalmers, Baillie; White, King, Appleton; McDonald, Cheesbrough, Keyworth, Leek, Wills.

LUTON TOWN: Collier; Dunne, Daniel; Groves, Kelly, Pacey; Bingham, Morton, Brown, Turner, Gregory.

Referee: J. Mitchell, Prescott.
Attendance: 16,700.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton's move of recalling Brown to centre-forward paid off. He was on hand to score their second goal in the 52nd minute and always needed close watching. The potential match-winner was Billy Bingham, easily the fastest runner on view. Bingham slipped into unexpected positions to create repeated danger."—
"Sunday Express."



"With five second half goals, the smallest attendance of the season at Leicester was raised to a fever-pitch of excitement as the two bottom clubs in the First Division fought a desperate battle for points. For long periods in the first-half the play of both sides was in keeping with their lowly positions."—"News of the World."



"Most of the football came from Luton. The second goal made by Tony Gregory and Billy Bingham for Allan Brown, would have graced the scrapbooks of Spurs, Manchester United or West Ham at their finest."—
"News Chronicle."



"With only four minutes to go of this vital match between bottom-of-the-table companions, it looked for all the world as though Luton were going to escape with two very valuable points. But then Tommy McDonald headed an equaliser to put Leicester on terms for the third time in the match."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"Luton's weakness was at inside forward where Gordon Turner and Bob Morton worked hard but without guile.

Luton's defence was prone to panic and deputy goalkeeper Alan Collier is no Ron Baynham."—
"Daily Express."