

LITTLE JUBILATION AFTER VICTORY

Plucky Exeter Gave The Town A Rare Shock By CHILTERN

EXETER CITY 1, LUTON TOWN 2

ALTHOUGH the Town qualified for the fourth round of the F.A. Cup, there was not much jubilation afterwards among the 1,000 or so fans who made the trek to the Devon city.

Reason for it was understandable because this was rather a hollow, fortunate victory, gained solely because of the opportunistic powers of Turner, who scored both the goals to renew the hope that seemed to have disappeared completely during a poor Town display in the first hour.

For a long time, Exeter, despite the fact that they were virtually reduced to ten men through an injury to Dale in the sixth minute, looked destined to cause one of the sensations of the day.

Playing to a preconceived plan of close marking, strong tackling and quick movement of the ball, they looked altogether the more capable side in the first half and were ahead deservedly at the interval.

The goal was a lucky affair which came in the 36th minute when DANIEL, running back towards his own goal in an attempt to recover after having been beaten by Stiffle, deflected the ball into his own net as it came across from the winger.

For a long time it looked as if this goal was going to be decisive, and it was fortunate for the Town that Exeter could not get another, otherwise they would have reached the point from which there was no return.

ENTHUSIASTIC EXETER

Still playing with tremendous enthusiasm, Exeter were again dangerous after the interval, though the Town gave short glimpses of better things when Morton produced a shot that Lobbett just tipped over, and then the goalkeeper made a one-handed save from a Turner header.

But, for all that, an equaliser looked far away, and the Town fans were beginning to think in terms of a depressing journey home.

However, in the 67th minute, TURNER changed all that when he was on the spot to bang the ball home after Lobbett had beaten out a drive by Morton.

This goal was the product of the most positive movement the Town had produced, because it began with a throw by Baynham to Kelly, who pushed the ball on to Pacey.

The left-half made the sort of through pass this match had been crying out for, and the Town were on level terms.

Even then, Luton supporters scarcely dared hope for more than a replay, but with only eight minutes left another through pass found Gregory in front of goal, and Lobbett again could not hang on to his shot.

In point of fact, he did well to save, but the ball rebounded to TURNER, who overcame an awkward bounce to bang it into the net.

One could feel sorry for Exeter having nothing to show for a brave display, but they just had not the forward punch to cash in on their periods of superiority.

SHORT PASSES FAILED

Not until they reached equality did the Town use the tactics designed to break down this strong defence. Previously, they had relied on the short, square pass that was intercepted time and time again, and once more showed a tendency to be caught off-side.

Even Bingham found that the closeness of the marking cut down his efficiency and, for much of the second half, he was wandering, not only in search of the ball, but to find room in which to manoeuvre.

It seemed that if anyone was to save the day, Bingham was the man to do so, but in the end it was Turner with his new-found confidence in front of goal who did the trick.

The way in which he accepted his two chances shed a ray of light on an otherwise rather dingy display.

Brown kept working and switching to elude the attentions of the solid Oliver, but received few opportunities, and Morton was another who strove hard with a limited amount of success. Nor could Gregory make much of Foley, and the Exeter full-backs certainly did a good job in cutting down the threat from the wings.

DID NOT GAIN

A GRIP

One thing the Town hoped for was midfield dominance by the wing-halves, but neither Groves nor Pacey could take a

grip consistently and this meant that the forwards did not secure the type of service they needed.

From Kelly, there was a sound, hard battling display, in which he held Wilkinson, and Dunne was another stout defender, though his task was eased by the injury to Dale, who did nothing of note afterwards.

For Daniel, this was a rather unhappy match, because he was plagued by the speed of Stiffle, who could have been a match-winner, and he made better use of his material.

He certainly had the opportunity, because for much of the time Daniel was playing too far away from him, and that added to the difficulties.

There was a first-class display of competent handling by Baynham, whose clever anticipation got the Town out of some sticky situations.

EXETER CITY: Lobbett; Foley, McDonald; Mitchell. Oliver, Thompson; Stiffle, Rees, Wilkinson Micklewright, Dale.

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

Referee: L. Callaghan,
Merthyr Tydfil. Attendance :
20,823.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"They pushed and probed relentlessly at the Luton goal and the only time that the Hatters came into the picture was through occasional flashes from Billy Bingham and Bob Morton. In fact, the First Division side were able to get going only in break-away."—"Sunday Express."



"Last year's Cup Finalists, Luton Town, won't go very far in the Cup this year if they serve up this sort of football. It was enough to make the Hatters think seriously of what sort of meal their straw boaters would make."—"Empire News."



"Both goals—in the 67th and 82nd minutes—came from rebounds off falling defenders. Their only merit was their timing and importance. But they can't wipe away the memory of the hour that preceded them—a time when this sad, slack Luton team sank to a new low level. For, mark this . . . Luton, whose last Cup-tie appearance was before 100,000 in the Final at Wembley, could and should have been beaten—by ten men."—"Sunday Dispatch."



"Exeter City fans must be asking themselves: 'How can our team play so well yet lose?' Even the most biased Luton fan will admit the Hatters never looked like scoring until that right-wing combination of Gordon Turner and Billy Bingham clicked into action in the second half."—"News of the World."



"Exeter did not deserve to lose. With key schemer Gordon Dole a passenger from the sixth minute, they should have been over-run. But, in fact, the football came from them, and both Luton's goals were smash-and-grab affairs."—"The People."



"The last time I saw Luton perform Cup duties it was before the vast Wembley crowd. Thank goodness only 900 of their fans saw a team in which only three men, Ron Baynham, Billy Bingham and Terry Kelly resurrected any shred of that now somewhat tottered reputation."—"News Chronicle."



"Only after Turner's first goal did Luton move with purpose. But in victory Billy Bingham's boys used up all the luck of an acre of four-leaf clovers—and touched a depth from which anything now must be a step up."—"Daily Mail."