

AFTER THE REPRIEVE

Town Worthily Go Into Last 16



Here's Luton's goal number three, scored by Ashworth, the only player in the foreground on his feet. Trautmann and a City defender take a low-level view of the ball hitting the back of the net.—Photo: T. H. Sheen.

NEW MIDDLE LINE AND “STARVE LAW” POLICY PAY

By Chiltern

60/61 (enc)

LUTON TOWN 3, MANCHESTER CITY 1

BRILLIANTLY, yesterday afternoon, Luton Town took full advantage of the reprieve the weather gave them in the F.A. Cup last Saturday.

In the Kenilworth-road mud, before 15,583 people, who paid £3,050 for admission, they deservedly qualified for the last 16.

Those changes made, not so much in desperation as in the knowledge that there must be some tightening up in the middle of the field, worked like a charm, and the domination of the City forwards came not so much from the fact that Law was held, but that he was not allowed to get possession of the ball with any room in which to work.

Certainly, none of those wide open gaps that appeared so often in Town's defence on Saturday, was discernible, and it was mostly through mastery at half-back—that we certainly have not had in recent matches—that the Town face a trip to Yorkshire for the fifth round, on Saturday week.

Watched by Preston manager, Cliff Britton, the man who hopes to sign him, but who must have felt his prospects growing dimmer with every minute that ticked away, Bob Morton was perhaps the outstanding figure of this great occasion.

From the start, he marshalled the defence, was constantly in the picture, and Law found that he had very different opposition from that which faced him in the first meeting.

MORTON MUST STAY WITH TOWN

On this great showing, Morton must stay with the Town, and I do not think that there is any doubt that he will.

As he rushed to catch a train, Britton told me, “I shall be in touch with Luton tomorrow,” but even if he does, I cannot see how the Town can allow Morton to go.

I would give to the other halves, Kelly and Groves, an equal rating with Morton, Kelly for the uncompromising way in which he faced every succeeding situation, for his strength in the tackle, and his determination not to be passed.

Groves earned his for his close shadowing of Hannah, which literally deprived City of the schemer on whom they rely so much for the openings for Law, and his general command of the situation.

On the face of things, there is no doubt that this is the Town's best middle line, and it has been arrived at not so much through trial and tribulation, but trial and error—and by admitting the latter.

From the start, it was obvious that this was going to be no walk-over for City, despite what they might have thought after the commanding position they had put themselves into on Saturday.

While the Town's form in the early stages was not in the same class as it was on the first

have the City worried and, again, it brought them two goals in three minutes.

In each, ASHWORTH had a considerable part. He scored the first with a rising drive in the 20th minute which Trautmann could only help into the far top corner of the net, and it was from the rebound of his shot two minutes later that FLEMING calmly side-footed the ball through for the second.

CITY DEFENCE DESPERATE

There were times after that when City's defence was in desperate trouble, and they were lucky to avoid further setbacks before there came a shock reply,

(Continued on Back Page.)

Town Worthily Move Into Last 16

(Continued from front page).

seconds before the whistle went for half-time.

Then, Kelly made his only mistake of the match when he should have booted the ball to safety, but did not. Hayes secured possession to make a hard, low centre that Standen should have cut off, but did not, and there was Bramwell hooking the ball off the goal-line.

Unfortunately, LAW was tearing in at full speed to meet the clearance, and he bundled the ball over the line.

At half-time, the position was uncomfortably reminiscent of the first match, with City threatening to creep into the game, and that impression was deepened early in the second half when they went all out for an equaliser.

DEFENCE WITHSTANDS CITY ONSLAUGHT

Almost for the first time we saw the City attack in full stretch, backed up by their wing-halves, and it was during this period that the Town defence had their biggest test and came through it with colours flying.

Having weathered that storm, which perhaps seemed to last longer than it actually did, the Town began to do some pressing on their own account, and some of the sting was taken out of the City's fight back when Barnes

had to switch out to the wing through a leg injury and was a limping passenger for the rest of the match.

What really settled it, though, was the third goal, which came from ASHWORTH in the 66th minute when he squeezed the ball between Trautmann and the near post after Bramwell had come right up into the penalty area to help on the attack, following a corner on the left.

It was a well-taken goal, but I fancy the Town would have looked askance at their goal-keeper had it been scored against them, for Trautmann was not so composed as usual in his handling.

While there was plenty of fight from the City after that, Law only occasionally flickered into the picture and, while there were one or two uneasy moments the Town defenders were so commanding in the penalty area that there was no basic need for anxiety that this Town lead would disappear.

SYMPATHY FOR THE CITY

Though one can have a deal of sympathy for the City after their performance on Saturday, there is no doubt that this time the better team won, and that the Town rose brilliantly to the occasion.

Every member of the team fought for every ball. There was accuracy and resolution in the tackle that was so palpably missing on Saturday, and the defence came out with colours flying.

Once again, Bramwell underlined his right to be named as the best left-back in the Second Division, and Dunne did his share towards the revival, keeping Hayes quiet and being prominent with his terrier-like tackling and his speedy powers of recovery.

Standen looked far more assured and he made the save of the match at quite a vital point when he somehow got one hand to a tremendous drive from Baker.

Forward, I made Ashworth the best because his thrusts were a continual source of danger, and his two goals were adequate consolation for the two he gained on

Saturday, but which do not count in the records.

Now, he is fulfilling the role that was cast for him when he joined the club, as a second spear-head down the middle and he is doing a great-hearted job.

TURNER CLOSELY SHADOWED

More closely watched than he was on Saturday and therefore not so dangerous, Turner worked and fought for every ball, and the same applied to Noake and Fleming who were a source of danger that could never be neglected.

On whether McGuffie will be a successful convert to the inside-forward position, I should like to reserve judgment, because he was obviously strange in his new surroundings but, like everybody else, he put in everything he knew.

LUTON TOWN: Standen; Dunne, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Groves; Noake, Ashworth, Turner, McGuffie, Fleming.

MANCHESTER CITY: Trautmann; Leivers, Betts; Barnes, Plenderleith, Shawcross; Barlow, Hannah, Baker, Law, Hayes.

Referee: K. R. Tuck, Chesterfield.