

END OF FINE TOWN RECORD AT HOME

Huddersfield Were The Stronger Finishers

By CHILTERN

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LUTON TOWN 3, HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 4

NOT since last October had the Town been forced to yield full points on their own ground, but the natural disappointment produced by their somewhat surprise failure was alleviated to a marked extent by the manner in which they went down.

As I remember it, the previous defeat which was by the only goal at the hands of Leyton Orient, was a flat, colourless affair, but there was no lack of colour or excitement in this sweltering struggle.

Had the Town snatched the points by even the narrowest of margins, there would have been complete satisfaction among the fans, and things seemed to be heading that way when two goals in the space of five minutes early in the second half gave them a comfortable 3-1 lead which should have been decisive.

However, before they really had the opportunity to consolidate that happy position, Huddersfield forced themselves back in the game when STOKES produced one of the many raking drives we saw in the latter part of the game to give Huddersfield a fighting chance.

Against a defence that often looked ill at ease and finally wilted in the trying heat, Huddersfield's busy attack was always dangerous and it was not altogether surprising when they drew level with 20 minutes left, though the goal was a bolt from the blue affair.

Some lethargic defensive play enabled SAWARD to gain possession at least 30 yards from goal. Without wasting time, he let loose a terrific drive which was booked for the back of the net immediately it left his foot and Baynham was left groping helplessly.

At that stage, most supporters would have settled for a draw, but Huddersfield, lasting the killing time the better, went all out for the winner. It seemed to have come when Massie lobbed the ball over the head of Baynham, but, somehow, McNally got back to hook it off the line to safety via the post.

That proved to be merely a reprieve because, with six minutes left, STOKES again showed the value of quick shooting with a shot from the edge of the penalty area that simply flew past Baynham.

TOWN'S PURPLE PATCH

These knock-out blows were vastly disappointing after the Town's purple patch soon after the interval when LORNIE obtained his first goal for the club and McKECHNIE added another which was a brilliantly-worked affair.

Probably, though, the Town's best chances of sewing up this match came in the first half because McKechnie, from close range, struck a post before DINSDALE gave Huddersfield a lead after eight minutes that was all against the run of play.

There was an element of luck about it because Baynham had his shot covered until its direction was changed by the ball striking Kelly.

Twice Fearnley, who made a series of fine saves, prevented McKechnie from equalising, and it was a Huddersfield defender, CODDINGTON, who enabled them to turn around on level terms.

With seven minutes to go to half-time, he lobbed the ball towards his own goal and it passed over the head of Fearnley, who had already left his goal.

This was not the smooth-moving Town of the first 45 minutes against Derby last Wednesday. For one thing, the half-back line was much less effective, with Morton being well below his best, Kelly none too successful against Stokes, and Groves never gaining a complete grip although he covered a tremendous amount of ground.

Often, McNally and Bramwell were fighting a battle against the odds, and even though Baynham

did not look so certain as usual, there was a certain amount of sympathy for him because goal-keepers do not often come up against power shooting of the sort Huddersfield produced in the second half.

Without looking as efficient as in the two previous home matches, the attack at least managed to keep among the goals, despite the fact that Turner had a thin time.

Certainly, Lornie could not be faulted on the score of enthusiasm and fighting spirit, but he did not look the part on the wing, and Walden, lacking adequate support, found progress difficult to make against Wilson.

Once again, McKechnie played some neat football to underline his great potential and Ashworth was an honest trier, but the attack as a whole found difficulty in finding gaps in a defence that packed its area scientifically and made excellent but aggravating use of the offside trap.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Groves; Walden, Ashworth, Turner, McKechnie, Lornie.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: Fearnley; Parker, Wilson; Saward, Coddington, Dinsdale; McHale, Kerray, Stokes, Massie, O'Grady.

Referee, R. J. Leafe, Nottingham. Attendance: 14,436.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"An entertaining and exciting match of this nature each week would surely bring the missing crowds back to Kenilworth-road—even though Luton might be on the losing side once in a while.

"This was a real and tough tussle played at terrific pace in blistering heat with thrills all the way. In the end, Huddersfield deserved the points." — "Sunday Telegraph".

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"What a thrilling 90 minutes this match proved to be, particularly in the second half. A Luton triumph would have delighted the home fans who had full value for their cash.

"The match winning shot from Huddersfield leader Derek Stokes dealt a severe jolt to the Luton hopes of victory, but the goal deserved the applause from the appreciative crowd." — "The People".

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"A sizzling drive by Derek Stokes with eight minutes to go won the game. Yet, for the first fifty-five minutes, it was all Luton so far as goal thrust and threat were concerned." — "Sunday Pictorial".

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"Luton players sat in their dressing-room at the end of this torrid 90 minutes wondering just how the two home points had slipped from their grasp. There was no doubt in the minds of any of the Luton officials that this was a game they should have won, because no team which builds up a 3-1 lead should be beaten at home." — "Sunday Express".