

TOWN BEATEN BY HEAT-WAVE HOT-SHOTS

HUDDERSFIELD PULL BACK TWO-GOAL ARREARS

Red-blooded Battle—Then Luton Fade Out

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 3, HUDDERSFIELD 4

In the end it was found impossible for Jim Fleming to play for the Town in their home match with Huddersfield this afternoon. His damaged thigh muscle had made so little progress overnight that there was not even the formality of a fitness test before the decision was made this morning.

Manager Sam Bartram told me just before the kick-off, "A test might have aggravated the trouble, but he should be fit for next Saturday."

So Jack Lornie, who has missed the last two matches because of a pulled muscle, came in on the wing for the first time. His two previous appearances were at centre-forward, but he has had a great deal of experience while with Leicester at outside-left and he was perfectly happy about the change of position. This was the Town's only change and it was unfortunate that a winning team had to be altered.

Despite their 4-2 defeat at Plymouth, Huddersfield, who have spent the intervening period in Torquay, were unchanged. The weather was really too hot for football in comfort, and without any doubt it affected the size of the attendance, because obviously many people preferred some more reasonable pastime.

So hot was it that many in the crowd were shirt-sleeved, and so colourful a picture did they present that it was almost like the scene on a Continental ground.

The Town were out five minutes before kick-off time for a loosening up, and there was quite an interval before Huddersfield arrived.

HUDDERSFIELD COVER UP

Morton won the toss and chose to defend the Kenilworth-road end. There was quite some movement by the Town right-wing pair which ended when McKechnie was nudged off the ball. Then a wild miskick by Parker nearly spelled trouble for Huddersfield, but covering was adequate and Wilson cleared.

The first Huddersfield attack came down the middle where Stokes, having made some room for himself, tried a shot from optimistic range, and Baynham was able to watch it going harmlessly wide.

Lornie earned applause when he cut into the middle to take a return pass from Turner and then raced into the penalty area to shoot, but Coddington sent him off balance and the ball went wide.

Then McKechnie brought Fearnley into action with a header that nearly broke away, but the goalkeeper recovered before Ashworth, who had followed up, could reach the ball.

The Town were still looking the more dangerous and producing

the more consistent pressure, and McKechnie was stopped by Parker only at the expense of a corner. When it came over, it was headed to him by Ashworth, but from close in McKechnie had little space, and his shot hit the foot of a post and rebounded to safety with Fearnley beaten.

Then came a shock because Huddersfield, who had not shown much sign of settling down, broke away and took the lead after eight minutes through DINS-DALE. It was a rather odd goal because Dinsdale's shot came from outside the penalty area and was the sort that Baynham would normally have picked up with the greatest of ease.

TOWN RALLY AFTER SHOCK

Just what happened is difficult to say, but Baynham went too far to his left, with the result that the ball went under his body into the net.

Something must have deflected the ball, for Baynham would not have made such an elementary error.

Quickly the Town hit back, and three times in quick succession Fearnley had to throw himself at the ball to prevent crosses from the right reaching one of the Town's inside forwards. Then Turner went up high to connect squarely with his head with a centre from Walden, but Coddington was in the way, or Fearnley might have been in trouble.

Again the Town pressed, and Walden, unsighted when he ran in from the wing, completely missed a cross from the other flank.

There was no doubt that Huddersfield's goal had given the Town a nasty jolt. It was the



LORNIE

His first goal for Luton made it 2-1.

first time this season they had found themselves a goal down. The best effort for an equaliser came from Lornie, who went striding through the middle, but Fearnley showed smart anticipation by throwing himself full-length to clutch the ball.

There were a couple of dangerous scuffles in front of the Town goal, during which Bramwell distinguished himself, and for a few minutes Huddersfield held the upper hand.

It did not last long though, because the Town came back to gain two corners in quick succession, but nothing came from either because of close packing of their penalty area by Huddersfield.

They were operating the off-side trap, too, with some success, and in a matter of minutes both Turner and Ashworth were caught in it.

McKECHNIE TESTS GOALKEEPER

McKechnie tried to repeat his feat of Wednesday evening against Derby, when he scored a great goal by driving away from nearly 25 yards. This time he was too high, but at least he showed the right idea, and the Town badly needed a goal to settle them down.

Then Huddersfield had two narrow escapes in quick succession, and McKechnie was involved in both. First, Turner swept the ball in low from the left wing and it deflected to McKechnie, who, taken by surprise, shot straight at Fearnley from whom it rebounded.

McKechnie was given a second chance, but this time Fearnley made a wonderful double save. First he pushed the ball into the air and as it threatened to cross the line for a certain goal he threw himself at it and punched it over injuring himself in the process.

When he was all right again, he was immediately in action from a header by Ashworth that was somehow scrambled away, and Huddersfield's lead was hanging by a very slender thread at this stage.

Conditions for football were most trying, and players were taking every opportunity for a refreshing wipe from the trainer's cold sponge whenever there was a hold-up in play.

Baynham had a difficult task to hold a cross shot by Massie which was going away from him, but he clutched it safely and the Town were on the attack again, only to be met once more with the tantalising offside trap.

McHALE—SECOND CENTRE-FORWARD

When Huddersfield had a turn Baynham went up high to pull down a centre by O'Grady, then rushed out to pull the ball from the feet of McHale, who was often probing down the middle as a second centre forward. Fearnley,

in turn, saved Huddersfield by throwing himself on to a pass which Ashworth tried in vain to reach.

In the end, Ashworth, seeing that he was short of his target, jumped over the goalkeeper to avoid injuring him.

Then with 38 minutes gone the Town equalised, not that they could claim any credit for the goal in this instance.

A long lob by Ashworth bounced harmlessly enough in the penalty area, and CODDINGTON, seeking to turn the ball back to Fearnley, lobbed it goal-wards.

However, Fearnley was already on his way out. The ball went over his head out of his reach and bounced over the line into the back of the net for a fortunate goal to the Town.

Fortunate maybe, but the Town thoroughly deserved to be level, and it was a badly-needed shot in the arm for them.

McHALE GOAL DISALLOWED

There was another shock at the Town end, because McHale got the ball into the net off the inside of the post after he had handled. For one anxious minute it seemed that the goal was going to stand. However, the referee pointed for a free kick and there was no appeal from Huddersfield.

Despite the heat and general discomfort, the pace was still a cracker, and the Town crowded on more pressure as the interval approached. Lornie from the inside-right position headed wide from a long centre by Bramwell.

Half-time:

LUTON 1
HUDDERSFIELD 1

From people better placed to tell what happened I heard at half-time that the shot that gave Huddersfield their goal struck Kelly en route, which explained Baynham's apparent misjudgment.

Altogether it had not been a good half for the Town, who had not clicked with the smoothness of the two previous home matches, and they had not yet mastered the problem of finding enough room to beat the offside trap.

The second half began with a heavy Town attack in which Turner, obviously in an offside position stood still, and Ashworth nearly worried Parker into a mistake.

A quiet period, with neither team making much progress, though Huddersfield did reach the Town penalty area when Kerray collected a headed clearance by Bramwell and pushed it through.

OFFSIDE TRAP THE OTHER WAY

While this was going on the Town defenders moved up in a line and Huddersfield's inside-left was yards offside, something that gave the home fans a cheer since it was a case of the biters being bitten.

Then in a sharp breakaway in the 50th minute Walden managed to outpace Wilson and LORNIE came chasing through at top speed to drive the ball first time into the roof of the net as the spreadeagled Fearnley groped for it on the ground.

It came as a bolt from the blue, but was a brilliantly taken opportunistic goal. This was Lornie's first goal for the Town, and was greeted by tumultuous cheers.

Huddersfield made two or three determined bids to pull level, but Baynham was not seriously troubled and generally speaking there was not a great deal of thrust about this visiting attack.

McKECHNIE'S TURN TO SCORE

Even so they contrived to worry the Town defence on occasions, but it was the Town who scored next with a brilliantly-worked goal by McKECHNIE after 55 minutes. McKechnie collected the ball from a pass by Lornie who just managed to keep the ball in play after a ill-

How The Goals Came

DINSDALE for Huddersfield after 8 minutes.
CODDINGTON (own goal) for Luton after 38 minutes.
LORNIE for Luton after 50 minutes.
McKECHNIE for Luton after 55 minutes.
STOKES for Huddersfield after 57 minutes.
SAWARD for Huddersfield after 70 minutes.
STOKES for Huddersfield after 84 minutes.

judged pass by Groves had been intercepted.

Weaving his way, McKechnie beat one defender before passing to Turner and then running into the open space inside the penalty area for the return pass. Accurately it came, leaving McKechnie facing only Fearnley, and he



McKECHNIE Scored Luton's third after a brilliant piece of approach work.

planted the ball firmly in the net to emphasise his value as an opportunist.

Things were happening thick and fast now because Huddersfield scored two minutes later through STOKES.

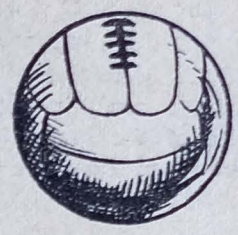
He collected a loose ball just outside the penalty area and from an angle let go a terrific drive, to which Baynham threw himself full length, but the pace of the ball beat him and it squeezed inside a post and hit the stanchion at the back of the net.

The excitement continued to come and Fearnley only just managed to scramble away with his feet a point-blank shot by Turner. There was little in it at this stage, and it took a great save by Baynham to keep out a shot by McHale.

Huddersfield escaped again when Lornie sidefooted a pass from Groves, and Fearnley just managed to keep it out. Excitement at this stage was intense and showed no signs of slackening.

Stokes nearly got up in time to meet with his head a cross from the left. Had he reached it there is no doubt Huddersfield would have been level. Before this particular danger was finally staved off, Bramwell earned the cheers of the crowd with a clever clearance.

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Right	LUTON TOWN					Left
	Baynham					
	McNally			Bramwell		
	Morton		Kelly		Groves	
Walden	Ashworth	Turner	McKechnie	Lornie		
Referee: R. J. Leafe (Nottingham)						
						
O'Grady	Massie	Stokes	Kerray	McHale		
Dinsdale		Coddington		Saward		
	Wilson		Parker			
	Fearnley					
Left	HUDDERSFIELD TOWN					Right

Huddersfield were still very much in the game, and there was further anxiety for the home fans when Stokes produced an unexpected shot and the ball rose only inches too high. Then Wilson lobbed the ball menacingly into the Town penalty area where it bobbed about until Stokes pushed Kelly in his anxiety.

RED-BLOODED STUFF

The seesaw nature of the game continued with Huddersfield drawing level after 70 minutes through SAWARD.

This was again an unexpected effort because from fully 30 yards Saward ran on to the ball and produced a rocket-like drive that left Baynham helpless as he threw himself across the goal.

This was exciting red-blooded stuff that the crowd were enjoying, though there was little liking for the sight of the ball whistling into the Town net quite so often. Encouraged by their longer-range efforts Huddersfield continued to have a crack at goal and there was another pile driver from O'Grady that Baynham just managed to reach one-handed at full stretch.

After a patch in which Huddersfield threatened to take the lead the Town began their quest for a decider and gained a corner when Fearnley pushed over a centre by Groves.

Then the Town goal had a remarkable escape when the ball went off Kelly's head and fell behind him, leaving Massie with what almost amounted to an open goal. Although Baynham came out he was always short of doing anything effective and Massie lobbed it over his head.

It looked certain that Huddersfield would go ahead but McNally raced back and somehow prevented the ball from crossing the line. Luck was with him because

the ball struck a post and rebounded for a corner.

FINISHING STRONGLY

Huddersfield appealed for a goal, but no signal came from the linesman nearest the incident, and the referee stuck to his original decision.

If anybody looked like getting a goal it seemed most likely to be Huddersfield, who were finishing the game more strongly, and it came in the 84th minute, when



STOKES beat Kelly for possession of the ball and cracked in a rising drive that Baynham could not reach.

That seemed to be the knock-out blow for the Town, who had not been seen on the attack in the last ten minutes. Nor could they marshal their forces now, and two or three promising raids were driven off before they could lead to anything tangible.

Lornie was now down the middle of the field with no-one on the left wing, and he led a heavy Town attack that was broken up by Coddington as it reached the penalty area.

Huddersfield came again and Baynham had extreme difficulty in saving at the foot of a post from Kerray.

There were just seconds left now, and appeals by the Town for a penalty, when Saward seemed to me to chest the ball, were turned down. Result:

LUTON TN 3
HUDDERSFIELD 4