

PACEY SHOCK FOR ROKER PARK CROWD

Snatched Equaliser In The Last Seconds

SUNDERLAND 2, LUTON TOWN 2

ALTHOUGH the records will show that the goal came in the 89th minute, the game was actually in time added for injuries when PACEY stunned the Roker Park crowd into dismayed silence by heading as dramatic an equaliser as could be imagined.

So well-timed was the effort that there was not the faintest chance of Sunderland making another bid for victory because there was scarcely time to re-start play before the whistle went for the finish.

Showing brilliant anticipation, Pacey came racing through after Walden had seen his shot rebound off the woodwork and, with the Sunderland defenders standing as if bemused, the right-half got his head to the ball and planted it firmly in the back of the net.

Did the Town deserve a point? I feel that they did, despite the fact that Sunderland had more of the play, because they had to fight a considerable amount of adversity.

For one thing, there was the shock of a penalty against them in the 18th minute when Groves was judged to have fouled Hurley as he forced his way through to try to connect with a corner from Overfield.

There was a collision, Hurley went down and to the Town's dismay, the referee pointed to the spot. Standen guessed wrong at which direction HOOPER'S shot would go and Sunderland were a goal up.

They had had chances of becoming so earlier but, throughout the match, their work in front of goal was not impressive and even the expensive Clough lacked accuracy in finish.

ASHWORTH'S EQUALISER

ASHWORTH levelled matters after 57 minutes, when he seized on a mistake by the over-confident Hurley, went straight for goal and ran the ball into the net.

For once, CLOUGH escaped the attentions of Cope 12 minutes later to restore the lead after what seemed might be fatal hesitation, but Cope claimed that had he not been held by another forward, he could have cleared.

Another slice of misfortune for the Town was the knee injury suffered by Legate midway through the first-half and which finally reduced him to a limping passenger.

For a spell during the second-half, he tried to harass the home defence by switching into the middle, but he found that he had not sufficient mobility to be a menace.

However, showing great determination and heaps of fighting spirit, the Town refused to be dismayed and Pacey's equaliser was the culmination of an all-out effort to save a point in the closing minutes.

STRENGTH AT HALF-BACK

As they did at Liverpool, the defence contested every inch of ground and much of their strength was vested in their half-back line in which Pacey was again outstanding and Groves was little, if anything, behind him.

They snuffed out the danger from two ball-playing inside-forwards, and Cope did a good job of blocking the path down the middle.

Although they were frequently harassed by the speed of the opposing wingers, both McNally and Bramwell gave plucky displays and the general covering was so good that Standen had far less to do than would have been expected considering the amount of play Sunderland enjoyed.

Forward, there was again the obvious deficiency of a ball-playing inside-forward which meant that Turner, who was also injured, had to devote some of his attention to midfield chores and the chances are not coming for Ashworth as they should.

He fought hard, as did McKechnie who, however, tended to be caught in possession. Although the service he received was not

of the best, Walden contrived to look dangerous, but Legate was not making much impression before the injury which handicapped him so badly.

SUNDERLAND: Wakeham; Irwin, Ashurst; Anderson, Hurley, McNab; Hooper, Herd, Clough, Fogarty, Overfield.

LUTON TOWN: Standen; McNally, Bramwell; Pacey, Cope, Groves; Walden, Ashworth, Turner, McKechnie, Legate.

Referee: A. W. Luty, Leeds. Attendance: 32,763.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Sunderland left the field to booing and jeering after letting a precious point slip from their grasp seconds from the end of this tough promotion race battle. The referee had allowed the game to progress into the second minute of injury time when Luton made a last do or die effort.

"Roland Legate, a limping passenger on the left wing for all of the second half gave his man the slip for the first time in the period, to put the ball across. Outside-right Harry Walden slammed it against the crossbar and then right-half Dave Pacey headed the rebound home with the Sunderland players staring in disbelief."—"Sunday Pictorial".

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"Dave Pacey made sure of Luton's surprise point. Seconds from time he nodded a Walden rebound into the net. Sunderland appear to think that once they are ahead the game is as good as theirs. They played brilliantly until they took the lead and then, for no apparent reason lost their rhythm."—"The People".

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"Badly handicapped by Legate's injury, Luton never gave up, and somehow in a mixture of wonderful football and sheer luck, survived attack after attack. The famous Roker Park roar, nightmare of many teams had no terrors for them, and for 40 nerve-racking minutes they held out.

"Indeed, they even managed an occasional attack, and in one of these Alec Ashworth racing on to a Tom McKechnie forward pass shocked Sunderland with a fantastic equaliser. Clough restored the Sunderland lead, but Luton fought on. I'm sure they would have won if Legate had been fit.

"Throwing away all caution, Luton staged a grand rally in the last 10 minutes. Then came that amazing Pacey goal."—"Sunday Express".