LAPSE DROPPED THE TOWN THREE PLACES

LACK OF THRUST COST TWO POINTS

Why The Re-introduction Of The Square Pass?

SO close is the race at the top of the Second Division, with the exception of runaway Liverpool, that the defeat at Bristol cost the Town three places because if they had won they would have been in fourth position, level on points with Leyton Orient and Sunderland.

Every point counts in the fight for promotion and that was why it was so disappointing to see the Town beaten by a team which was clearly inferior to them in football ability, but who fought their way back into the game after looking to be on the receiving end of a hiding.

early stages, there would have around like lost souls, almost completely baffled by the way in which the Town moved the ball about.

There was something contemptous about the Town's early play and it seemed only a matter of time before the all-important goals came.

TN fact, had the Town obtained from a header by Ashworth and the goals they ought in the goalkeeper from point - blank attacks took so long in which to range.

either of those shots counted, then I am convinced that Ashworth and McKechnie folded up completely.

Forthright Rovers Scented Reprieve

HOWEVER, the badly needed Not until the second half when Walden, who hit a post after Rovers seemed as if they scented upfield did McKechnie become a

account.

Their forthright methods brought them chances that were not accepted but, all through the first half, the Town were much superior so far as constructive football was concerned.

In part, their downfall could be attributed to mistaken tactics because the ball was often kept too close and there was far too much square, across the field

Strange that the Town should relapse into this plan when they had the memory of the previous week's four goals which all came via the down-the-middle route.

Why Did They Not Use The Through Ball?

WHY this element should suddenly creep back into their play, I am at a loss to know, but the fact remains that very little use was made of the through ball and the Rovers' defence was able to re-group time and again because the Town

CHILTERN

develop.

Pattern that I expected was the Rovers would have would provide a double spearhead, with Groves providing the material from the rear but, for some reason, McKechnie spent a deal of his time foraging in midfield and even Ashworth was coming back.

goal did not come and trainer Frank King waved him Radford had made a diving save reprieve, so that they began to striker and then it did not

> Hamilton Caught The Town Napping

TOWARDS half-time, Rovers became very dangerous, but the Town did not take the warn-ing because they began the second-that they should have had both. Cooze, the young trialist from that they should have had both. the Swansea area, had a header half in the same rather complacent minutes.

decision and, indeed though I think with tongue in to do the midfield work with em- palmed a left-wing cross straight cheek.

the Town napping because he and Ashworth and McKechnie his goals. The second was scored moved forward for a through must be up there to harass the in similar fashion, when Baines pass as the defenders moved up, defence. and although he looked offside, Groves, too, must not keep the of goal and banged it home. the Town admitted afterwards that ball so close as he did on Saturhe was not.

Standen came out, Hamilton ball do more of the work. dribbled around him rather easily, I thought, and was able to hook the ball into an empty net.

Disallowed Goal A Harsh Decision

FOR a few minutes, the Town were in all sorts of trouble against the suddenly confident Rovers, but they survived to begin to attack with some of the urgency they should have shown previously.

Pacey came into it as a great force and nearly produced an equaliser with a clever lob that Radford just pushed over the bar.

After heavy pressure on the home goal, there came the controversial point of the match when Ashworth had what seemed to be

FOR THE RECORDS BRISTOL ROVERS 1

Hamilton LUTON TOWN 0 BRISTOL ROVERS: Radford; Davis, Frowen; Bumpstead, Pyle, Slocombe; Jarman, Hamilton, Bradford, Watkins, Hooper.

LUTON TOWN: Standen: McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Cope, Pacey; Walden, Groves, Ashworth, McKechnie, Fleming.

Referee: D. H. Howell, Birmingham. Attendance: 9,688.

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a perfectly good goal disallowed and it led to the Town players surrounding the referee appealing against what I feel to have been a very harsh decision.

Town's Bad Luck Did Not End There

PYLE and McKechnie went up for a ball which went goalwards off the head of the centrehalf a fact that a linesman, with flag upraised, for offside, failed to

Ashworth went on to plant the ball past Radford and then came for offside, but for a foul on not altogether to blame. the disappointing decision—not Pyle by McKechnie.

afterwards that it was he who was fouled because Pyle was holding full-back to follow him. him down.

Even then, the bad luck the Town experienced in this match remarkable save from him during had not ended because Walden the second half. came through in a flashing run which he ended with a fine, low cross drive that thudded against the far post and came back into

Attacking Policy Must Be Changed

from this game, it would United Reserves. have been an alleviating factor, over the bar just before half-time,

style and were badly shaken when reason why they were not col- the far post with one of the few Rovers took the lead after 62 lected, and there must be a shots which had goalkeeper change of attacking policy for Ramage beaten, and this was the Their defence looked for an next week's game at Preston. pattern of the Town's attacking

If the line is to remain the throughout. for one afterwards, same, then Groves must be left A mistake by Baynham, who phasis on the fact that he must to the feet of Baines provided Truth was that Hamilton caught keep pushing the ball forward, the outside-right with the first of

day and must try to make the

Walden Nearly Had

WITHOUT a doubt, Walden was the most dangerous of the Town attack because he al-

ways had the measure of Frowen. and had it really been his day he would have come off the field with a hat-trick to his credit.

To me, Fleming continues to be a puzzle. Capable of brilliant footwork, most of the time he seems unable to finish with any sort of accuracy, and although he looked good at times, not a great deal came from it.

Defensively, the Town were sound, with Cope doing a very good job against the experienced Bradford, who was seldom allowed to be a danger, and the former Manchester United player is doing a competent job now.

Pacey Shone In The Storming Finish

MORTON was seen at his best in the first half, when he was often a sixth forward and, on the whole, made a satisfactory return while, in the Town's storming finish, Pacey looked as likely as anyone to secure an equaliser. and nearly did so two or three

Bramwell, I thought, looked rather more happy with his play on this occasion than on some others recently, and if Hooper were the Rovers' most dangerous forward, I feel that McNally was

Hooper made space for himself by lying deep, so deep in fact that it would have been folly for the

As for Standen, he was never overworked, though I recall one

Rank, Bad Shooting By Reserves

RANK, bad shooting cost the Town Reserves two points on Saturday, when, despite being in control for most of the time, HAD the Town gained a point they lost 2—0 to Colchester

Daniel kicked a penalty high Lack of thrust was the main cleared off the line. Chandler hit

fastened on to a rebound in front