

HUDDERSFIELD AIR SUITS THE TOWN

Strong Middle Line The Foundation Of Victory

By CHILTERN

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN 1, LUTON TOWN 2

SINCE a character named Vic Metcalfe, a former England outside-left, to whom I spoke before this match, ran into the ground a certain Luton right-back, who shall be nameless, but who is no longer with the club in any case, the Leeds-road pitch has been a lucky one for the Town.

This was the fourth consecutive visit, including a Cup-tie on which they have avoided defeat there, and their most recent tally shows three victories and a draw.

That must put this ground high among the Town's list of favourites, but I fancy that they expected a good deal tougher struggle than this proved to be, especially in view of the way in which Huddersfield played in taking both points away from them at Kenilworth-road earlier in the season.

While the Town's need for League points had become urgent following four consecutive defeats, it would have been understandable had there been an evident predilection to save themselves for what must have been regarded as the far more important date on Monday.

To a certain extent, this was evident in the attack because there was not the ceaseless chasing and refusal to be beaten which characterised their play in the first two meetings with Ipswich.

But the defence was the same strong combination, even though Kelly was standing in for Cope, but I did notice one salient fact and that was that good positional play and a shrewd positional sense eliminated largely the need for last ditch, injury prone, tackling.

Indeed, Huddersfield played into the hands of the Town defenders by their sheer inaccuracy and complete lack of any discernible plan.

OPTIMISTIC SHOOTING

Their main aim in life seemed to be to have a crack at goal from a variety of optimistic ranges and the net result was a succession of shots whistling yards off the target area.

Although Huddersfield had more of the first half play, the Town defence dealt competently with their best efforts and, with Baynham again in highly confident mood, particularly when the ball was in the air, the speculative crosses made were dealt with competently.

Not a great deal was seen of the Town forwards in the opening stages but, even so, they took the lead after 25 minutes when McKECHNIE chased a long through pass down the right wing and kept going as the home defence stood still to appeal for offside.

No such decision was forthcoming, and McKechnie went on to lob the ball into the net, via the finger tips of Fearnley, who came out desperately.

So the score remained until the 66th minute when Walden, back chasing Wilson in defence, was judged to have pulled down the full-back just inside the penalty area.

To say the least, it seemed a harsh decision, but appeals were of no avail and CODDINGTON scored easily from the spot.

For a few minutes after this, Huddersfield played with more confidence, but the Town defence stood firm, and they came right back into the game.

Fearnley made a sensational save from a header by Ashworth but, shortly afterwards, Pacey slipped the ball quickly to MORTON, who was in an open space and, from rather more than 25 yards' range, the right-half slammed in a terrific drive that beat the goalkeeper from the word "go."

PULL AT HALF-BACK

Where the Town had the main pull was at half-back, where both Morton and Pacey made outstanding contributions and Kelly gave a highly meritorious display, more remarkable in view of the fact that it was a month since he had pulled on a boot for a serious match.

Both McNally and Bramwell were well on top of their jobs and Baynham, by his keen anticipation and the cleanness of his handling, showed that his Cup-tie form was no flash in the pan.

Most disappointing members of the Town front line were Walden and Legate, and the former did not come into the picture until a private vendetta began between him and Wilson, while Legate's finishing seems to have lost its zip.

Taking the game through, McKechnie was the forward who promised most, though Ashworth came well into it during the later stages and Chandler, rather showing the strain of two hard Cup games, even so managed to hustle the home defence into some mistakes.

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

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Kelly, Pacey; Walden, Ashworth, Chandler, McKechnie, Legate.

Referee: K. J. Seddon, Southport. Attendance: 10,140.