

Morton's Great Goal Gives Town Two Points

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AFTER STORM OVER HUDDERSFIELD'S PENALTY BY CHILTERN

HUDDERSFIELD 1, LUTON TOWN 2

THERE is no respite for the Town, for at Huddersfield today they were facing their third hard game in eight days, with the prospect of another difficult assignment against Ipswich on Monday.

Maybe there was some temptation to rest a player or two in view of Monday's important date at Highbury, but this was resisted and the only change was at centre-half where a knee injury kept Ron Cope out of this match and probably out of the Cup reckoning, too.

In the circumstances, Manager Sam Bartram turned to Terry Kelly, whose last League appearance was in the early part of the season, and this was the only alteration.

A setback for Huddersfield this morning came in a phone message from right-half Pat Saward, who still trains with Aston Villa. He was expected to return after injury, but his knee had not yielded to treatment as completely as he thought, so John Bettany came in at right-half.

This was something of a surprise because it was Yorks cricketer Ken Taylor who deputised for Saward in Tuesday night's Cup-tie.

Huddersfield had already brought back Atkins at right-back, in place of Gibson.

RAIN AND A GUSTY WIND

In the absence of Cope, the captaincy of the Town team went to Bob Morton.

After a fairly fine morning there was rain at lunch time, and it was still falling intermittently just before the start.

In addition, there was a gusty win which looked like making accurate football difficult.

Surprisingly, there was still a lot of frost in the ground, and it was soft only on the surface, with a look as if it would tend to greasiness.

The rather unpleasant weather kept down the crowd, which was mostly huddled under the shelter of the various covers on this well-appointed ground.

Morton won the toss, but there was not much advantage as the wind seemed to be blowing diagonally across the field—though I began to wonder about that point when Baynham took a goal-kick and the wind held the ball so much that it barely covered half of the Town's half of the field.

SHOTS GO ASTRAY

Huddersfield were looking the more assertive in the early minutes without causing much concern and there were three consecutive goal-kicks to the Town following shots that went astray.

Scarcely less wild was a drive by Massie from 25 yards after

Bettany had laid on a pass, and the ball flew well over the top.

It rather looked as if the Town had got the thick end of it so far as the wind was concerned, and Baynham continued to have difficulty in getting any length in his clearance kicks.

It was nearly five minutes before the Town paid a visit to the Huddersfield penalty area, and then it was from a long clearance by McNally, to which Chandler gave chase, but Fearnley came out and cleared easily.

Huddersfield continued to be on top, but their shooting was certainly speculative and mostly from longish range.

CHANDLER IS SHUT OUT

Dinsdale was much too high after Kerray had worked the ball cleverly in midfield, and then a mistake by the inside-right began the most constructive attack the Town had made so far, but Chandler, who chased a through pass from Legate, was shut out by two defenders.

Then Huddersfield really piled on the pressure for a minute or two, with shots bouncing off Town defenders right, left and centre, and in the midst of the assault a linesman flagged vigorously but vainly for an off-side decision.

In the end Pacey stopped a shot and kicked clear.

However, Huddersfield came back again to cause further trouble although their finishing was not such that the Town seemed to be in any immediate danger.

First corner to the Town came after 12 minutes when McKechnie worried Atkins into putting the ball behind, and as it came across from Legate Coddington's head just flicked it away from Pacey, who was coming in for one of his spectacular efforts.

TOWN GOAL ESCAPES

But at times the Town did better and at least Chandler



McKECHNIE
Picked up Chandler's pass to put the Town one up after 25 minutes.

managed a shot that rose much too high.

Best chance that this scrappy struggle had produced fell to McHale, lying in the centre-forward position, when a pass from Kerray went to him as straight as an arrow.

Quickly he got the ball under control, rounded Pacey and then fired in a fierce shot that missed the near angle of the woodwork.

There had been few opportunities for the Town forwards so far, but McKechnie made one by racing across to the right and making a high centre that Fearnley dropped but recovered quickly enough to defeat the challenging of Legate and Chandler.

Straight from this, Stoke made a long run deep into the Town half, beating a flying tackle by Kelly on the way, and then sent away O'Grady.

Closing in along the dead-line the winger pulled the ball back, but Baynham got his hands to it, managed to pull it clear, and Morton completed the clearance.

That spasm over, the Town did a little attacking on their own account, and with Pacey well up we had visions for a second or two of another great effort from him. This time, though, he delayed his shot a split second too long so that it was deflected for a corner.

Being in too much of a hurry cost Ashworth a possible chance after Chandler, from the left wing had cracked the ball into the middle, and Ashworth, in trying to kill it and steady himself, sliced it and saw the ball trickle wide.

There was rather more construction coming from the Town forwards now, and Chandler found Morton in an open space, was a cross pass which the right-half had time to control.

Then after making a yard or two he somehow got on the wrong beam altogether and shot yards wide.

TOWN SPRING A SURPRISE

After 25 minutes, the Town suddenly broke away and took the lead through McKECHNIE.

It certainly came as a surprise to Huddersfield, because the defence stood still in the belief that McKechnie was off-side as



he raced on to a pass from Chandler.

Quickly the referee glanced at his linesman. There was no response, so play went on and McKechnie was left with a clear run into goal from a severe angle.

He took the ball close up to the oncoming Fearnley before lobbing it, and the goalkeeper actually got a hand to the ball, but only managed to help it into the net.

Huddersfield came back in furious style, and it took a great dive by Baynham to keep out a dangerous cross from McHale. In the same onslaught, the goalkeeper managed to smother an attempt by O'Grady.

Baynham was in action again, dealing with an awkward centre from O'Grady that the wind carried away from him, so that he had to punch the ball finally, and it went to McHale, who headed the ball straight back, but found Baynham standing ready.

However, the goalkeeper could not prevent the ball going over for a corner, which brought some by-play in the Town penalty area when Coddington came up and tried to bore a way through.

There was plenty of pushing and barging before things sorted themselves out.

LUTON DEFENCE HARD PRESSED

Huddersfield were still contriving to have a big share of this rather muddled game, which was being spoilt by the tricky wind.

However, the shooting of the home forwards was as sketchy as ever and O'Grady put in a shot that was not feet but yards too high.

At the same time, the Town defence was having its work cut out on occasion to prevent the home team reaching a more deadly shooting range.

The crowd was not impressed by the home team's scoring attempts, but there was warm applause when Dinsdale came through more purposefully than had most of his forward colleagues—but he, too, smacked the ball well wide.

Then there came a sharp raid by the Town in which Pacey played a leading part because he took up a splendid position for a return pass by Legate and closed in to make an awkward cross that Fearnley appeared to push around the near post.

I thought so, a linesman thought so, and the Town players

thought so, but the referee thought otherwise. To counterbalance this, the Town received an off-side decision they did not deserve.

BAYNHAM'S GREAT SAVE

Near half-time the Town did some attacking, though there was little persistency, and Huddersfield came back strongly down the right wing. The ball went to Bettany who slipped it quickly to Massie. This time the inside-left managed to reach shooting range, but Baynham pulled the ball down splendidly.

Chandler came into the picture by harassing Coddington into a mistake which left McKechnie with a possible chance of increasing the lead. I thought he should have taken his time, controlled the ball and made a little ground, but instead he chose to shoot first time from the edge of the penalty area and put the ball outside.

Just before half-time, Huddersfield were given a free kick which Atkins placed unerringly in the Town goalmouth, but Baynham was there to punch the ball off the head of Stokes and his close-covering defence did the rest. Half-time:

HUDDERSFIELD 0
LUTON 1

Twice in quick succession at the start of the second half, Baynham was in action, first punching out a long free kick by Coddington, then getting up and clearing again when the ball was lobbed back.

It was the Town's turn for a free kick when Kerray made a delayed tackle on Morton, and from McNally's kick Ashworth turned quickly to shoot.

Chandler got a boot to the ball as it passed him, and Fearnley went down in the most uncertain fashion to push the ball wide.

JUGGLING ACT IN GOALMOUTH

Under pressure, Pacey had to give away a corner from which Baynham did something approaching a juggling act in hanging on to the ball although hemmed in by challenging forwards.

Then Kerray made a long solo run which ended in a free kick after he had been floored by McNally. Nothing came of the free kick and, generally, Huddersfield were making it difficult for themselves and easier for the Town defenders by running with

How The Goals Came

McKECHNIE for Luton after 25 minutes.
CODDINGTON (pen.) for Huddersfield after 66 mins.
MORTON for Luton after 77 minutes.

the ball instead of trying to make it do the work.

Except when the ball was lobbed high into the goalmouth, where Baynham was completely confident, the Town defence never looked in imminent danger of conceding a goal, and they were doing more pressing on their account, with Pacey twice prominent in attack.

First, he raced through to smack across the face of the goal a hard low centre that no one could catch, and then a minute or two later produced the shot of the match, a first-time drive from 25 yards that Fearnley clawed out of the air.

With the Town now in command, due partly to the domination of their wing halves, Morton went in to make a drive that lifted just too high.

ASHWORTH IS HURT

Then came a tense moment when Ashworth was seen lying full length after a tackle, but he recovered quickly.

This was followed by some Huddersfield pressure that met with the fate that had overcome it all through this scrambling match.

Either they were driven off when they reached the region of the penalty area or their final shot went high or wide.

Then came an amazing escape for the Town when McNally, trying to clear a high lob, skied the ball over his own head so that Baynham had to scramble across the goal but could not prevent the ball bouncing against a post. Baynham was able to collect it before Stokes could take the chance.

Suddenly, Huddersfield had livened up, and the Town were in real trouble when Baynham could not reach a centre from O'Grady which went across to McHale. The winger hit it first time, and the ball struck Baynham on the legs to rebound to safety.

PENALTY PROTEST

With 66 minutes gone, Huddersfield were awarded a penalty which caused a storm of protest from the Town.

Certainly it seemed a mild enough offence, if an offence at all, when Walden tackled Wilson almost on the fringe of the area.

Immediately the referee pointed to the penalty spot and, despite the appeals of the Town players, he stuck to his decision.

CODDINGTON planted the ball well wide of Baynham's left hand.

This penalty award livened up things considerably and the Town certainly were unlucky to lose their lead in such a fashion.

At last the Huddersfield supporters had something to shout

about, and they made enough noise for a crowd twice their size.

There were premature cheers when Massie, from a palpably off-side position, steered the ball into the net, but the whistle had gone seconds before.

After Huddersfield had been rampant for a time the Town got back into the attack with the aid of a free kick for a foul on Ashworth. Then McNally was spoken to by the referee after a foul on O'Grady.

Petty fouls by both teams spoiled a game which had never been of high standard anyway, and there was another foul by Massie on Morton.

TOWN COME STORMING BACK

One of the best movements by the Town for some time came when Pacey found Chandler out on the right wing with a perfect pass.

Cleverly the centre-forward rounded Coddington and then unselfishly pulled the ball back. Ashworth could not reach it, but McKechnie did, and his shot was kicked away by Atkins.

With the Town pressure continuing, they could have had a penalty themselves when Legate was pushed in the back, and then Ashworth nearly snatched the lead again with a diving header that Fearnley just managed to push over the bar.

Then, in view of that penalty award, justice was done in the 77th minute when MORTON continued that habit of Town wing halves of scoring valuable goals. His was as good a goal as I have seen this season.

Pacey had a hand in it, because he picked up a loose ball in midfield quickly saw that Morton was unmarked and slipped it on to him.

Morton wasted no time, although he was over 25 yards from goal. Quickly he made his shot, and the ball went like a bullet, rising over the clutching hands of Fearnley, who was beaten from the time the ball left Morton's foot.

HIGH KICKS —AND HOPES

That goal had discouraged Huddersfield, who were now reduced to punting the ball hopefully high into the Town goalmouth.

O'Grady did have a chance of making a clear shot, but his effort was no better than any that had gone before. Dinsdale missed another chance, but Huddersfield came again through a long pass by Massie, which gave Bramwell some trouble before he cleared.

Then Chandler missed a chance of sealing the Town's victory when he courageously fastened on to a long pass by Bramwell, but somehow missed his kick completely.

Then came an offside decision against Chandler right on the centre line. It seemed that he was just in his own half and so unable to be offside, but Kelly, anyway, saved the situation by booting away when Dinsdale lifted the ball into the penalty area.

Result:

HUDDERSFIELD TN. ... 1
LUTON TN. 2