

Pacey's Goal Brings Down Mighty Liverpool

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TOWN TAKE ON NEW LOOK: LEADERS' DEFENCE SHOCKED

(By Chiltern)

LUTON TOWN 1, LIVERPOOL 0

THERE was a bit better response from the public than usual at Kenilworth-road this afternoon when, despite the fact that the Grand National was being televised, the crowd looked as if it would turn out to be a little better than the recent average for the visit of the League leaders, Liverpool.

Liverpool seem to be booked for the First Division next season and they are a colourful side, with power in attack and soundness in defence.

Among the spectators was Ian McColl, the Scottish team manager, who paid a flying visit to make a final check on Ian St. John, current holder of the centre-forward position for Scotland, and Ron Yeats, who may be in the running for a cap soon.

He was also inquiring, bearing in mind the needs of his under-23 team, about Tommy McKechnie and Jim Fleming.

Obviously their presence had to do with a Town player or players, but when I asked Sam Bartram about it, he was completely in the dark about their intentions.

In naming their team, the Town caused something of a shock by picking Bob Morton, a stalwart in so many positions over the years, for centre-right.

Apart from that, the switching of Turner and Ashworth to the only change from the team beaten at Leeds. On the other hand, Liverpool, with a 4-4 mid-week win immediately behind them, chose the team that, with the exception of Furnell, a comparatively recent signing, had represented them in the last 11 matches.

In the continued absence of Cope, John Bramwell retained the captaincy.

LIVERPOOL SOON THREATENING

The Town were set to defend the Oak-road end, and there was an ominous sort of start for them because, working the ball neatly, the Liverpool forwards pressed them back on the defensive immediately, and there was a close call when St. John made an opening for Hunt, whose shot was deflected to safety by Kelly's body.

However, the Town weathered this storm and came away more confidently through Turner and were a bit unlucky not to take the lead.

Turner in the first place made a long dribble, at the end of which he lost the ball but regained it to push it out to Fleming. Ashworth threw himself at Fleming's centre, but Furnell was there first to push out the ball to Turner.

Quickly, Turner lobbed it apparently wide of Furnell, but the goalkeeper, who was some yards out of his goal, threw himself desperately to his right to pull off a wonder save.

Then Standen was in action, and had to move sharply at the last minute to reach a shot by Milne, that threaded its way through a crowd of players. Standen grabbed it at the second attempt.

TOWN FORCE CORNERS

It had been a lively opening on a pitch that had recovered well from the mid-week snow and rain.

Bramwell could only head a centre from Accourt for a corner, and this was followed by two on the left for the Town, the second of which Fleming put just behind. Showing rather more life in attack than has been the case lately, the Town were having quite a share of the play, and it was the turn of the Liverpool defence to take the strain.

Again, Furnell prevented the Town taking a shock lead when he came out almost to the edge of the penalty area to stop Ashworth who tried to push the ball past him from a shrewd pass by Turner.

The definite improvement in the Town attack continued, and Ashworth was fouled just outside the penalty area. Following the free kick Furnell saved Liverpool again by throwing himself full length to grab near the post a shot by Turner.

In the first 10 minutes it had been only Furnell's three great saves which had stood between the Town and the lead.

They gained another free-kick midway in the Liverpool half, and Bramwell planted it into the goal, but the tall Yeats was on hand to head clear. However, the Town persisted, and with Bramwell going through to join the attack, there was another free-kick inches outside the penalty area when he was pulled down.

From this, the Town took the lead through PACEY, who flicked with his head the well-placed kick from Fleming. This time Furnell was in no position to do anything



How The Goal Came

PACEY for Luton after 13 minutes.

amount to much, and in fact the visitors' attack had failed to live up to the reputation for deadly finishing in this first half-hour.

At the same time, credit must go to the Town defence, which was covering well again.

When the Town made some ground once more there was a very poor finish from Fleming who sent the ball sailing harmlessly behind.

A good tackle by Kelly on Callaghan nipped in the bud a promising Liverpool raid, but they persisted, and Pacey was a trifle lucky to get away a centre by Callaghan when Hunt challenged him.

The new England cap, Hunt, had not been much in the picture so far, but he came into it now with a clever dribble, and the attempt to find St. John was frustrated by Bramwell.

Over-cleverness by Turner, back in his own half, put the Town defence in trouble, but Turner extricated them by chasing Melia and pulling him down a yard outside the penalty.

Accourt's free kick, which came dangerously, was punched out by Standen, and the ball went so badly that the ball went out of play on the other side of the field.

However, the pattern of play had changed, with Liverpool more in the control, and being seen of the Town attack.

SAVED BY KELLY AND McNALLY

What could have been a fine chance for Turner from a centre by Ashworth was spoiled by the intervention of Morton who tried to get the ball and control when he should have allowed it to run to his partner.

There was more pressure by Ashworth, and Kelly intervened in timely fashion to give away a corner when Liverpool were threatening.

This was taken left-footed on the right wing by Accourt, and from it Hunt shot from point-blank range, but McNally was in the line of flight and stopped the ball with his chest. He was winded in the process.

The referee became unpopular for giving a free kick against Ashworth in the two halves, and before this could be taken there was attention for McNally.

McNally recovered to head away the free kick in firm fashion. Liverpool were now threatening more of the play now, their finishing was nothing like the standard demanded by their big reputation.

Clever work by Fleming outwitted Byrne, but his centre carried too far, though Moran had to give a corner to clear. The Liverpool attack finished with Ashworth's kick.

The Town defence was covering well and Kelly stepped in to spoil a chance for Accourt after a beautiful wing by Melia.

Morton had not been much in the game in his new position, and he now had a spell at inside-right, with Turner on the wing.

Again the game swung. The Town's way, and McKechnie won a corner which he took himself by passing the ball back to Bramwell, who came through down the left wing. From his centre, Morton headed outside, though there seemed to be some suspicion of a deflection.

CLEVER PASSING

There was plenty of tension in the game but mostly the finish

was lacking, and Liverpool had been very disappointing.

Clever inter-passing, first by Ashworth then by Bramwell, was carried on by Fleming, who gave Turner the chance of a shot from longish range and an oblique angle, but the ball finished well on the wrong side of the post.

A foul by Leishman on Ashworth on the touch-line gave the Town a free kick just before half-time, and the ball bobbed about in front of the Liverpool goal before Ashworth, shooting on the turn, produced a good drive. Furnell made a brilliant one-handed save at the angle of the work.

Certainly Liverpool had much for which to thank Furnell.

The next free kick was for Liverpool when Groves pushed St. John, and it brought a hot raid on the Town goal that Bramwell finally cleared. Half-time.

LUTON..... 1
LIVERPOOL..... 0

Whatever the second half was due to bring, the first half had certainly been a tonic for the Town fans. Luton had shown altogether more determination and better play than for weeks past.

First move of the second half brought a shot from Turner which might have found a billet had not Yeats been in its path.

STANDEN FOILS ACCOURT THREAT

There was quick response from Liverpool, with Callaghan getting clear of Bramwell almost for the first time. Standen cut out his centre by throwing himself at the ball and pushing it wide of the oncoming Accourt.

The ball went straight into Furnell's hands from a free kick by McNally after Leishman had fouled Ashworth, but the Town were not to be taken in. The ball went out to the right, then back in the middle from Groves to Turner.

Turner got his boot too close to under it, so that it flew yards too high.

Moving the ball about more effectively now, Liverpool forced the Town back, and Pacey stuck out a long leg to turn for a corner a centre by Callaghan.

Standen, wearing a cap because the kick came over. He headed the ball capably with the corner kick.

SMART WORK BY TURNER

Clever work by Turner put the Town on the attack again, and eventually the ball was centred by Bramwell. Up together went Yeats and McKechnie, but both missed their heads and it rolled to safety.

With the Town continuing to attack, Byrne deflected headed behind a centre by Morton, but the corner was cleared, and Callaghan made some headway for Liverpool, but the visitors were mostly using too many passes to make any progress.

A cool clearance by Bramwell broke up another Liverpool raid, and then the Town came back in with a shot by McKechnie, but it was taken out by a defender's foot so that the ball rolled to Furnell.

Liverpool wingers were switching, and it was a centre by Callaghan, now on the left, that caused the Town defence their most trouble. They tried their best to stop it, but there was a free kick for Liverpool. The reason puzzled the crowd, and they let the referee know.

Ashworth forced Furnell to his knees with a shot from an angle, and then McKechnie just failed to find the centre-forward with a through pass which Yeats intercepted.

McKECHNIE MISSES BY INCHES

Turner had a shot stopped by Yeats's foot, and play stayed at the Liverpool end. Melia back in defence, was worried by Fleming into a mistake, but Turner, given a chance, shot well off the mark.

LUTON TOWN					Left
Standen					
McNally				Bramwell	
Groves		Kelly		Pacey	
Morton	Turner	Ashworth	McKechnie	Fleming	
Referee: O					J. Carr (Sheffield)
Account	Melia	St. John	Hunt	Callaghan	
Leishman		Yeats	Milne		
Moran		Furnell	Byrne		
Left LIVERPOOL Right					

By inches, McKechnie missed adding to the lead with a lob from the inside-left position after Fleming had done the spawework, and the ball, which deceived Furnell, was just too high.

Ashworth got the ball into the corner of the Liverpool net from a through pass by Turner, the linesman's flag had already gone up for offside.

Before the game was on again the referee called for the ball to be changed, and a new one was produced.

Quite a lot of the Town's passing was going astray now, which was unfortunate, because they were having more of the play again.

Again Ashworth was pulled up for offside as he chased a through pass from Morton; this time it was a rather doubtful decision.

CROWD SHOWS ITS DISAPPROVAL

The referee had a word with Yeats, giving Liverpool a free kick in the centre circle. Yeats went up into the penalty area trying to use his height as the kick came over. He headed the ball goalwards, but Standen saved comfortably.

Some of the referee's decisions annoyed the crowd, and they showed their disapproval when Ashworth finished flat on his face after being charged by Yeats, but the referee waved on play.

Then Standen had to push over in a hurry an inswinger which threatened to curl under the bar from Callaghan's centre.

Callaghan's next effort was not so well placed, but the ball hung around the Town goalmouth and there was quite a lot of concern about the shot.

Heather tamely to Melia, but he brought the danger to an end by throwing himself at the feet of St. John.

At last the referee penalised Yeats for pushing Ashworth, but McNally's free-kick was badly placed and Furnell was able to collect it on the first bounce.

Determined 'tackling by the Town defence was throwing back raid after raid, but Liverpool were making a little more threatening at this stage.

After Turner had been too clever in midfield and lost the ball as a result, Bramwell got the Town out of trouble by showing good

anticipation in racing across to kick clear.

Then Morton brought the next danger by a too short pass to Groves, but again the Town survived without real difficulty.

Furnell saved the situation again by throwing himself at the feet of Ashworth who looked a possible scorer as he raced through from a pass by Turner.

Yeats disputed with the referee a decision when he was penalised for pushing Ashworth in the back again, but the free kick brought the Town nothing but a cross which was well wide.

All sorts of switches were being tried by the Liverpool forwards now, and at this stage Melia was outside-right and Callaghan inside.

A grand through pass by Pacey sent Ashworth racing for the ball, but Yeats got there first and gave away a corner.

NARROWEST ESCAPE

Then came a corner for Liverpool and the narrowest escape the Town had had so far. Hunt met the ball squarely with his head and it flew—but fortunately straight at Standen, who managed to hang on to it.

Some of the tension should have been taken away when Fleming laid on a fine scoring chance for Turner, but he missed his kick completely. The ball ran on to McKechnie, who was almost as well placed, but he sliced it wide.

A goal at that stage would have been invaluable, because there was more danger from the Liverpool forwards now, and Callaghan, back to his outside-right spot, hit the inside of a post.

With the Liverpool pressure mounting, Kelly wisely headed behind when Callaghan centred the ball awkwardly, and Yeats, up in the Town penalty area again, headed wide when the ball came across.

Again the chance of making the position safe slipped away when Groves made a great opening for Ashworth, but from no more than ten yards he sent the ball too high.

In "injury time" Morton brought groans when he put the ball behind after a promising movement. Result:

LUTON..... 1
LIVERPOOL..... 0