

Town Fight Back After City Score

By Chiltern

62/63

(FLC)

WITH the aid of some luck, Luton Town survived a shock start in which Manchester City might have been two up in less than five minutes in their League Cup-tie at Maine-road last night.

Then, when it began to look as if Town were over the worst and were starting to press on their own account, City took a somewhat belated but deserved lead.

MANCHESTER CITY: Dowd; Kennedy, Sear; Benson, Leivers, Oaks; Young, Dobing, Harley, Hannah, Wagstaffe.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, Groves; Walden, McKechnie, Turner, McGuffie, Fleming.

Referee: K. Howley, Middlesbrough.

On a heavy pitch the Town were forced back on the defensive from the start, and after Wagstaffe had shot over, Dobing, in the second minute, drove wide when it seemed easier to score.

Another escape for the Town came when Dobing beat Baynham with a deliberate downwards header from a corner by Young, but somehow or another Bramwell managed to fall on to the ball on the goal-line and scramble it away.

Meanwhile, the Town managed a couple of raids. In one, McKechnie curled the ball over from the left, and in the other, Turner, from longish range, shot straight at Dowd.

City were wearing a goal-hungry look, and Young missed another chance by smacking the ball into the side netting.

CITY FASTER, MORE ASSERTIVE

City continued to be the faster, more assertive team, and a centre by Wagstaffe hit the outside of the near post to the surprise of Baynham, who had to move quickly to snatch it up.

Moving the ball shrewdly and quickly into the open space, City were giving the Town defenders a chance to tackle only on rare occasions, and the Town continued to be in real trouble.

Then the Town could have taken a surprise lead when, in a sharp breakaway, McKechnie pushed the ball through to Turner. The Town leader took deliberate aim from just inside the penalty area and narrowly missed the angle of the wood-work.

With the City pressure on again, Morton, and then Walden, were penalised in quick succession for fouls, but the Town defence packed their goal to good effect.

It was 23 minutes before the Town gained their first corner, although the City had already gained four, and then McKechnie, trying to bore a way down the middle, won it.

TOO MUCH ACROSS THE FIELD

As on Saturday, the Town, when they had the chance, were playing neatly in mid-field, but the ball was going across the field too much.

McGuffie had a chance to give the Town the lead from a through pass by Turner, but somehow Dowd got his body in the way of the shot. It was an opportunity that should have been accepted.

City took the lead after 33 minutes through HARLEY, who, from close in, rammed through a centre by Young. There were some appeals by the Town against the goal, but the referee had no doubts about it.

Some trouble broke out on the far side of the field between Walden and Wagstaffe, a couple of minutes or so after the City outside-left had left McNally stretched on the turf in an incident the referee did not notice.

City had taken the upper hand again, and Baynham made great saves from Hannah and Harley. Half-time:

MANCHESTER CITY ... 1

LUTON TOWN 0

With the Town fighting back but unable to get on terms, and City defending the heavier goal-mouth, Dowd was provided with two severe tests by Turner. Strangely enough, both came from the outside-left position, and on each occasion the goalkeeper was nearly beaten.

At this stage the Town were playing quite well, without real

punch, partly because there was again some tardiness by the wingers in parting with the ball.

Town were making a brave fight of it. The defence was looking a lot more assured, but the forwards tended to run into trouble.

Baynham saves a goal by Harley after handball

Bramwell, who had his name

taken, apparently for something he said to the referee.

Walden also booked after

throwing the ball at Wagstaffe. Result:

MANCHESTER CITY 1

LUTON TOWN ... 0

Attendance: 8,682.