

DID NOT MAKE USE OF TRUMP CARD

Town Should Have Kept Walden In The Game

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 2, GRIMSBY TOWN 2

WHEN a team has a trump card and neglects to make the fullest use of it, then they can hardly complain when they are deprived of an invaluable point, as the Town were by Grimsby at Kenilworth-road on Saturday.

Where they slipped up unaccountably was in failing to provide Walden with a liberal service of the ball after he had clearly shown his complete superiority over Keeble who, in the early stages, showed little idea of how to stop the winger.

In view of that, one would have thought that all the Town's efforts would have been directed towards keeping Walden fully occupied, but things just did not turn out that way.

Even allowing for the fact that they did not cash in on their main advantage, the Town should have won and surely would have done had they been stronger and more virile at inside-forward.

However, McKechnie had a very thin time which was partly why Walden became so neglected and McGuffie had a laboured sort of game.

In view of that, DAVIES did well to maintain his record of scoring twice in each of three matches since he moved to centre-forward and with any luck at all in the second half, would have had a hat-trick, at least.

Just how his shot that brought the first goal in the 29th minute got in, was a mystery to most because the ball looked destined to sail over the bar until it suddenly dipped, to the complete consternation of White.

NOTHING STREAKY ABOUT THIS GOAL

But there was nothing of a streaky nature about his second, five minutes from half-time, because he took a pass from Morton, beat Jobling cleverly, and simply hammered the ball in.

These goals followed an unexpected success by PORTWOOD after 12 minutes in Grimsby's first serious attack and, having recovered so well, the Town looked poised for victory.

What they needed then was another goal and it nearly came in the first minute of the second half when Davies headed the ball on to the bar, and again as the game entered its closing phase when another header from him struck woodwork.

Much of Grimsby's midfield work was quite impressive, but they did lack the finishing touch until 16 minutes from the end when McLEAN seized on a mistake by Pacey and although he angled himself in the process, beat Baynham completely with a fine cross shot.

Although Jobling was a Grimsby stalwart, he never completely subdued Davies, who was always a danger man and he would have been even more of a threat had Walden received some

of the support of which Jardine did not make the fullest use.

There were too many holes for anyone to be completely happy about the Town defence and neither Groves nor Bramwell was in anything like the form of which he is capable, with the result that there was uncertainty down the left flank.

Two mistakes by Pacey contributed to the Grimsby goals, but apart from a tendency not to mark McLean closely enough, he did not do at all badly, and is certainly not being given the support in the form of the pivot by the full-backs he is entitled to expect.

Throughout, Morton was as consistent a defender as the Town had and McNally was more in touch with things than was his partner.

On both occasions that he was beaten, Baynham was powerless to do anything about it and his work generally was stamped with class, so that there was a feeling of confidence in him.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, Groves; Walden, McKechnie, Davies, McGuffie, Jardine.

GRIMSBY TOWN: White; Donovan, Keeble; Rafferty, Jobling, Cockerill; Jones, Portwood, McLean, Foster, Hill.

Referee: G D Roper, Cambridge. Attendance: 7,271.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

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"Considering the lowly situation of the two sides, this was by no means a bad game. On this showing these teams are not the worst in the Second Division by a long chalk.

"But Luton do need to go into the market for an inside-forward. Grimsby have saved their worries by signing Foster. Luton, at the moment just do not have an answer to their problem." — "Sunday Express."

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"It was evident from the early minutes that Luton had a match-winning trump card in right-winger Harry Walden, who soon had Brian Keeble mesmerised.

"Twice he teed up perfect chances in the first five minutes, but each time Tommy McKechnie was too slow. Then in Grimsby's first real attack after 12 minutes, Cliff Portwood took advantage of some bad defence dithering by Dave Pacey and John Groves. He shot the ball low out of Ron Baynham's reach to give Grimsby the lead." — "Sunday Pictorial."

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"Luton were leading 2-1 at half-time in this vital bottom-of-the-table struggle. Then they got a bad attack of jitters and allowed fighting Grimsby to snatch a point. The main Luton weakness was in defence against a Grimsby attack that was far from brilliant.

"Leader Ron Davies scored both Luton's goals, cancelling out a 12 minute Cliff Portwood effort with a lob shot in the 29th minute, and then scoring a grand goal in the 40th minute." — "News of the World."