

HISTORY NEARLY REPEATED ITSELF

Shocks For Town After Holding Three Goals Lead

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 3, HUDDERSFIELD 2

THINGS have a habit of happening dramatically when Huddersfield come to Luton and Saturday's match was no exception. Last season, the Town built up a 3—1 lead early in the second half and the Yorkshire team staged such a terrific rally that they won 4—3.

History looked like repeating itself on Saturday because the Town, 3—0 up early in the second-half allowed Huddersfield to get back into the game to the tune of scoring twice and they came very close to crowning their recovery with success.

In the end, the Town held on to two precious points just about by the skin of their teeth, but not before they had had several shocks in the shape of near misses by the visitors' forwards.

Apart from the victory, the pleasing feature about the Town's display was the extra dash and enthusiasm shown by their forward line.

In the last two away matches, there has been little or no thrust, nothing much in the way of a goal-hungry look and a seeming tendency to acquiesce to disaster.

This was all changed on Saturday when Chandler led the front line with plenty of fighting spirit, kept the Huddersfield defence on tenterhooks and generally showed what a player full of determination can do.

Chandler set the tempo from the start with some raiding runs, and, as the result of one of these, the Town took the lead after six minutes. Wood only half-saved a shot from him and JARDINE was on hand to tap the ball through.

From that fine start, the Town took much-needed confidence and, for a long time, they had more of the play. In the main, Huddersfield, though they improved as time went on, were not causing much concern to the Town defence, though Milner, beating Kelly, looked a certain scorer until Baynham came out beyond the penalty area and gave away a free kick for handling.

DRAMATIC SPELL

Start of the second half brought dramatic happenings with TURNER back-heading the Town into a two-goals lead after only two minutes and, five minutes later, with the Town well on top, there came a third goal.

It was an odd affair in that no one knew for sure who had scored it until afterwards, when

it transpired that a clearance bounced off the back of BETTANY after Lownds had pushed the ball into the penalty area following a corner on the left.

From that point, the Town should have gone on from strength to strength, but it was not to be, because Huddersfield fought back hard and pulled back a goal through BALDERSTONE after 55 minutes.

After that, Huddersfield looked a vastly different side because they found the forward directness that had been missing previously and Baynham was very much in action.

When O'GRADY, evading a tackle by Pacey, swung in towards goal and beat Baynham with a right-footed shot into the far corner of the net, the Town looked to be in trouble, especially as there were still 21 minutes to go.

However, they hung on, with Baynham making some excellent saves, but their victory hung by the slenderest of threads until the end.

DAVIES SHONE AT INSIDE-RIGHT

Back at inside-right after his spell in the middle, Davies was a big success in the first half when he used the ball extremely well, but had to spend more time on the defensive later. Turner fitted in well to the general scheme of things and this inside trio was the best the Town have had for some time.

Both wingers had instructions to help out their full-backs where they could by coming back to mark McHale and O'Grady, and Walden, well held by Coddington before half-time, did not come into his own until later, while Jardine, though doing reasonably well before the interval, did not lay on a great deal of material.

One of the disappointments at Huddersfield was that the wing-halves failed to take a grip in midfield, but there was improvement here, with Pacey appearing to appreciate his switch to the right and Lownds giving a rare fighting display.

In the middle, Kelly was much in command and was a barrier which Massie, leading the attack in the absence of Stokes, could seldom pass.

Partly because he tended to lay off his winger, Daniel was not so effective as on his last appearance, but McNally, though harassed at times, managed to keep O'Grady more quiet than he was the previous week.

In the end, though, the Town owed a considerable debt to Baynham for his courageous saves and Huddersfield could not complain about lack of opportunity to save this game in the last 20 minutes.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Daniel; Pacey, Kelly, Lownds; Walden, Davies, Chandler, Turner, Jardine.

HUDDERSFIELD TOWN: Wood; Atkins, Coddington; Bettany, Taylor, Dinsdale; McHale, Milner, Massie, Balderstone, O'Grady.

Referee: K. H. Burns, Dudley.
Attendance: 5,507.