

CITY GET

BIGGEST WIN

ROBY UNSIGNED YET

By TONY COURT

EXETER CITY, playing before the poorest gate of the season at St. James's Park this afternoon, piled up their biggest goals for total in the Third Division when they netted five against Luton Town.

As I forecast yesterday, there was no Don Roby in City's line-up when they came out to meet fellow-strugglers Luton in the wind and rain.

Though they had agreed terms with Derby for the right-winger, the player himself had still not made up his mind.

So the City went out with Eric Welsh and Dave Hancock replacing Graham Rees and Wilf Carter in the attack.

Luton brought several of their own supporters with them. Wearing boaters and carrying black and white colours, they brought a little life to a drab afternoon.

The teams

EXETER CITY: Shearing; Smyth, MacDonald; Mitchell, Harvey, Anderson; Welsh, Banks, Curtis, Hancock, Thorne.

LUTON: Baynham; McBain, Barton; Pacey, Caleb, Reed; Pleat, Riddick, Chandler, McKechnie, Jardine.

Referee: Mr. P. G. Brandwood (Walsall).

A special guest at the game was Exeter's M.P., Sir Rolf Dudley-Williams, who had a seat in the director's box beside the club chairman (Mr. Reg Rose).

Les MacDonald worked the City out of an early danger-spot, before the ball was moved up for City's first attack.

Welsh beat his man and put over a waist-high ball, but Caleb was there to clear it. Curtis and Thorne efforts at breakthroughs were both

Stop the clock

Winning times in respect of Exeter City versus Luton: First prize, 9min. 24sec.; other prizes, 9min. 23sec. and 9min. 25sec.

stopped, and then Luton moved up for Reddich to shoot well over. The crowd was thin and so was the atmosphere in the early stages.

Things livened up with a Welsh-Banks move that ended in Baynham diving to grab the ball from Curtis's feet as the centre-forward dashed in.

In the lead

Welsh, the City's liveliest forward, won a corner—and from it they took a ninth minute lead. The ball was pushed out, but Smyth got it and returned it to Welsh. He crossed the ball perfectly and CURTIS jumped to meet it and scored with a great downward header.

Then it was Welsh again, crashing a shot across Luton's goal. Baynham made a desperate but successful dive to stop Banks as he ran on to a back pass from Caleb.

But in the 16th minute BANKS did score. Baynham made a despairing dive to cut out Thorne's centre, but he missed, and Banks nodded in City's second goal.

Again Banks was the City's danger man as he ran through on to a Welsh pass. In the Luton area he was jointly tackled and brought down by Caleb and Reed, but despite everyone's penalty appeals Mr. Brandwood waved play on.

Luton's defence was really in trouble and two more Welsh-inspired attacks were only just scrambled away.

The Luton forwards looked strong and Riddick showed that they could be dangerous with a shot that went just wide.

Fighting

But today the City were fighting, and they hit right back for Thorne to crack in a shot that had Baynham diving full-length to save.

The game switched again, and Luton broke away for McKechnie to shoot low. Shearing dived to push the ball against the post and out, but he injured his right shoulder doing it and had to have treatment before carrying on.

Back came City for Curtis to fire in a shot which Baynham held under the bar.

In the 36th minute Luton scored. Chandler got his head to a cross that beat Shearing and McKECHNIE helped it into the net with his boot.

Again City came back and Baynham did another mid-air catch to hold a Hancock snap shot. But they had an escape as Chandler broke away and hit the underside of the bar with an angled shot. Half-time:—

EXETER CITY 2
LUTON 1



ALAN BANKS, City's inside-right, heads the ball past goalkeeper Baynham for Exeter's second goal during the City v. Luton Town match at St. James's Park, Exeter, today.

Luton shook the City with a quick attack—and would have equalised but for Riddick miskicking right in front of goal after finding a gap in City's milling defence.

Two City raids broke down before Luton attacked again. Again Riddick looked dangerous as he ran through, but he was stopped by a good Harvey tackle.

Even so, Luton kept the pressure on, and only two more Harvey tackles stopped Jardine from getting in good shots.

Welsh, still the City's most persistent forward, won a corner that came to nothing. Then it was Luton's turn with a corner and a close-in free-kick—but they were no more successful.

Poor patch

City were going through one of their usual early second-half patches of poor form—and it was just as well that it didn't affect Harvey. For again it was left to the big centre-half to stop Riddick.

With less than half an hour to go there was still a big danger of Luton equalising, while the City struggled to set up any sort of attack that got even near the Luton penalty area.

Then they managed it as Welsh sent Curtis away, and Reed brought him down to give away a penalty. Even then it was a close thing. Baynham dived to his right as HARVEY shot, and got his hands to the ball, but couldn't stop it from going on into the net.

Then, three minutes later after Banks won a corner on the right THORNE moved over to take it—and with the help of the wind curled the ball straight into the net to put City four up.

It could have been five as Welsh and Curtis worked the best move of the match for Welsh to run through and beat Baynham. But referee Brandwood had already whistled up to give Thorne offside.

Hobbled off

In trying to stop Welsh, Baynham hurt his left leg, and hobbled off for McKechnie to go into goal.

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Baynham did not seem too badly hurt, and walked up and down the touchline with a coat over his shoulders, watching the City vainly trying to get in their first shot at his deputy.

Welsh was the first to succeed, but McKechnie dropped very well and covered his drive.

Two minutes from time MITCHELL made to five, and Exeter's biggest score of the season, after goal-line clearances from Banks and Thorne.

Result:—

EXETER 5
LUTON 1

Attendance: 4,686.

COMMENTS

The City, four times as lively as against Scunthorpe, deserved this win. When they attacked they always looked dangerous, with Welsh having a hand in three of the goals to complete one of his best games of the season.

At one time City could have let the game slip but Harvey held them together and almost kept Luton out on his own.

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