

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

THINGS COULD HAVE BEEN MUCH WORSE

Tinsley helped Town out of real trouble at Hull

By Chiltern

HULL CITY 3, LUTON TOWN 1

"Ted Phillips, former Ipswich marksman, couldn't find the net for lowly Luton, and his first game for his new club was far from a happy one. Centre-forward John O'Rourke was Luton's chief hope.

"Luton were completely outclassed by a slick Hull side with their eyes on promotion. And only the live-wire O'Rourke gave them any trouble."—"The People."

"Tinsley so narrowed the angle that several shots hit him and it seemed that Luton would escape a drubbing, not only because of their excellent defence, but because the bounce of the ball was in their favour.

"Then, in the space of two minutes, Houghton, with an intelligent swerve and a shot into the net when everyone expected a pass, and the dashing Wagstaff, put Hull three goals ahead with only 15 minutes left. That ended the tension. Hull began to play championship football and Luton took more time with their passing.

"The result was that O'Rourke got the ball into the Hull net twice, once after it had run out of play by a hair's breadth, and the second time when, unmarked, he swept McKechnie's pass into goal.

"Luton, apart from letting their best moves break down with a careless final pass, played too well to stay at the bottom of the table."—"Sunday Telegraph."

EVEN allowing for the fact that Hull are obviously a better than average Third Division team, there was little hint of a new, crusading spirit in the Town's display at Boothferry Park.

Indeed, to be perfectly fair, they were probably relieved that they were not on the receiving end of a real drubbing, because Hull pretty well dictated the way things should go from the start and could blame only themselves that their goal average did not receive a decided boost.

There was the added fact that Tinsley, whose first-team appearances have been mainly as a consequence of injuries to Baynham, had a real field day.

Maybe he had some luck, but he deserved it for the brave way in which he tackled a somewhat unenviable task, and he was the recipient of congratulations from the Hull players and crowd at the end.

However, even Tinsley's brilliance could not help the Town to a badly-needed point, and once again they showed shortcomings in attack, which did not help the composure of the defence.

On paper, the set-up looked useful enough, with Riddick being given the job of purveyor of material for the double spearhead of O'Rourke and Phillips, but the inside-left had an unhappy day, with the result that the chances just did not occur for the other two members of the inside trio.

For all that, O'Rourke looked much more confident than on his other appearances since his return after injury,

which is a welcome sign, because the Town will need every goal they can get during the coming vital weeks.

COULD NOT JUDGE PHILLIPS

To try to judge the potential value of Phillips on this showing would be grossly unfair because the support for him was virtually non-existent, but he did look dangerous in the closing stages when he switched to inside-left.

It was from his centre that O'ROURKE obtained the Town's goal six minutes from the end and shortly after he had had one disallowed on the grounds that the ball had crossed the dead-ball line.

By then, however, the success was too late to have a rejuvenating effect on the Town, who were three goals down at that stage. Two came in the space of six minutes between the 76th and 81st.

HOUGHTON had a hand in each, because he obtained the first and then laid on the opening for WAGSTAFF to atone in some measure for some bad misses earlier on.

That made Hull's position more tenable because they had had to be content previously with a single goal lead given them by a header by CHILTON following a corner by Ian Butler.

TOWN WERE ALWAYS STRUGGLING

Chilton saw another header bounce against the bar which was one of several escapes experienced by the Town who always gave the appearance of a team struggling to find some vestige of confidence.

With Pleat promising a good deal more than he actually achieved and McKechnie plainly out of position on the left wing, there was not a great deal of workable material from the wings and the front line as a whole seldom wore a dangerous look.

So, largely, it was the old familiar story of the defence being under relentless pressure and, even taking that into account, more gaps appeared than should have been the case.

Pacey did not take a grip on things in the middle while Reid, despite all his industry, gave Wagstaff far too much freedom and was fortunate that the inside-right did not cash in more heavily on this circumstance.

Which left Gibson, strong in the tackle and good in the air, as the best of the middle line and the other defender whose tackling came in for commendation was Jardine who was more forthright than his partner, McBain who, for all that, stuck to his task with some tenacity.

HULL CITY: Williams; Davidson, Butler (D); Collinson, Milner, Summers; McSeveney, Wagstaff, Chilton, Houghton, Butler (I).

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley; McBain, Jardine; Gibson, Pacey, Reid; Pleat, Phillips, O'Rourke, Riddick, McKechnie. Referee: C. F. Duxbury, Preston. Attendance: 22,986.