

# GILT-EDGED CHANCES GO BEGGING

Wagstaff a big culprit, but all is forgiven in the end

HULL CITY . . . 3 LUTON TOWN . . . 1

IT IS A LONG TIME since Hull City squandered so many chances as they did in this clash with hapless and hopeless Luton Town at Boothferry Park this afternoon. So superior were the Tigers in their approach work, and so tight a grip did their halves put on the opposition, that the game should have been safely won long before half-time.

Ken Wagstaff, the man whose scoring feats set Humberside alight a month ago, was the chief culprit, for he missed half a dozen openings, at least two of which were in the gilt-edged category. All these missed chances meant that, instead of romping to a big win, the Tigers had to fight desperately until the 77th minute, when Houghton added to the 27th-minute goal headed in by Chilton.

Chilton's goal came from a diving header after a corner by Ian Butler, and Houghton's was a fine piece of individual work which started with a free-kick by Davidson, which Houghton took square and then lashed out of reach of the overworked Luton keeper, Colin Tinsley.

Tinsley had played well in Luton's goal while the men in front of him scrambled desperately, but really there should never have been any doubt about this victory, because Luton looked every inch candidates for the drop into the Fourth Division.

Nine minutes from the end, Wagstaff atoned in some measure for his earlier mistakes by bursting through to whisk a pass by Houghton past Tinsley, but in the 84th minute, O'Rourke scored for Luton with a fine header from a Phillips cross, shortly after he had had a goal disallowed when the Tigers' defence got in a real tangle.

By BRIAN TAYLOR

HULL CITY made one change from the side which had taken three points from away games at Shrewsbury and Carlisle, recalling a now fit Ken Houghton at inside-left in place of Ray Henderson.

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

**LUTON TOWN:** Tinsley; McBain, Jardine; Gibson, Pacey, Reid; Pleat, Phillips, O'Rourke, Riddick, McKechnie.

**REFEREE:** G. F. Duxbury (Preston).

There were about 20,000 in the ground to see the Tigers kick-off and set up a series of raids that kept them firmly entrenched in Luton's half for fully five minutes.

Ian Butler, moving inside, was sent through by a neat Chilton header, but he shot over the bar, and then Houghton drove the ball wide when he linked up with Ian Butler.

Next, Houghton tried a 25-yarder, to which Tinsley had to drop down on his knees to save. Chilton and Ian Butler combined from more good service by Summers, but the centre-forward could not get his attempted centre past Reid.

Houghton, falling deep, sent McSeveney away and the right-winger flicked the ball through for Wagstaff to race goalwards.

The inside-right, however, pushed the ball too far ahead of him and it ran dead. While all this was going on Luton had made only one move into the Tigers' half, and that fizzled out tamely.

Even at this early stage the Tigers were doing almost as they liked, and Summers had a shot deflected by Pacey after a good move by Davidson, Collinson and Houghton.

#### JUST WIDE

From McSeveney's flag-kick, Chilton got up highest to the ball, which flew just wide of the post, with Luton scrambling desperately.

Then McSeveney and Wagstaff combined with a quick one-two which Wagstaff finished off with a first-time effort that rattled into Tinsley's hands.

O'Rourke had a fine chance for Luton when he raced away for a long, through pass. Milner chased after him hard, however, and stuck out a foot to divert the ball into Williams's hands.

WITHIN A MINUTE, THE TIGERS SHOULD HAVE GONE AHEAD. FOR WAGSTAFF WAS LEFT WITH A CLEAR RUN AT GOAL WHEN A REBOUND CAME LUCKILY HIS WAY.

He went bursting through, but Tinsley came out and smothered the ball. The Tigers fought back and Summers chipped the ball through neatly for Wagstaff to get another chance, but this time Tinsley turned the ball over the bar.

The Tigers won another corner then Pacey, faced with a challenge from Summers, decided to lay safe and head the ball behind.

#### OVERDOING IT

The Tigers were playing fine football, but, if anything, were tending to overdo it a little. The crowd were impatient for a goal and certainly the Tigers should have had one by now.

IT MIGHT HAVE COME WHEN HOUGHTON SLIPPED A FINE THROUGH PASS FOR WAGSTAFF, BUT THE BALL WAS JUST OUT OF REACH OF THE CITY INSIDE-RIGHT.

He got possession just afterwards, however, from a curling corner by Ian Butler, and his drive from the edge of the area just brushed the goalpost. Then Chilton sent him racing through with a fine pass, but Luton were on crowding round the City sharp-shooter, and had to give way another corner.

This one, the fifth won by the Tigers, proved fatal for Luton, as it fell to Ian Butler to take, and he curled it low into the goalmouth.

Houghton flicked it on with the faintest of deflections and CHILTON dived headlong to rocket the ball past Tinsley.

It was incredible that the Tigers, with so much of the game, could be only one goal in front. Wagstaff burst through only to be stopped by Jardine and then got clean away with Chilton unmarked inside him. The inside-right's pass, however, was just a

otherwise this would have been the second goal for the Tigers.

It was panic all round when the Tigers turned on the heat. Tinsley saved brilliantly after a dazzling run by Ian Butler, and Jardine only just managed to get to the ball before McSeveney.

THEN CHILTON HEADED IN FROM A WAGSTAFF PASS AND THE BALL RATTLED AGAINST THE CROSSBAR WITH TINSLEY BEATEN.

#### SCOREBOARD

CHILTON (City) . . . 27min.  
HOUGHTON (City) .. 77min.  
WAGSTAFF (City) .. 81min.  
O'ROURKE (Luton) .. 84min.

The ball shuttled wildly around Luton's penalty area before being scrambled away at about the fourth attempt.

It was not until just over five minutes before the interval that the Tigers were in any sort of trouble, when Pleat went racing down to try and get over a centre, which City's defence were happy to turn behind for a corner.

Reid had to wrap an arm round Wagstaff's waist to stop the inside-right getting away after the Luton skipper had been robbed of the ball. Just afterwards, Chilton was almost away, but Pacey body checked him out of the game, and from the free-kick Chilton got in a header which Tinsley saved.

Chilton and Wagstaff bored a way down the middle and just about everyone in Boothferry Park but referee Duxbury were convinced that Gibson had handled in the area.

There was no penalty award, however and the Tigers had to be content with a 1-0 interval lead.

H.T.: Hull City 1, Luton T. 0.

Straight from the kick-off, Wagstaff had the ball in the net, but it was no goal because on his dash for the ball the City inside-right had bundled Reid headlong on to the turf. Seconds later, Chilton clipped the ball inside for Wagstaff but this time he miskicked completely.

Then Chilton went racing away down the right-wing, but once again Pacey obstructed him. From the free-kick, the ball rattled around a forest of legs, dangerously close to Luton's line, but there was no one there to turn the ball in.

The second-half pattern was continuing along exactly the same lines as the first, with the Tigers unleashing attack after attack, but just failing to apply the finishing touch.

#### PERFECTLY PLACED

Chilton, sent away by McSeveney, raced through only to find Tinsley perfectly positioned to save his power-packed drive.

Next, McSeveney and Houghton combined and the inside-left hammered the ball just wide when he had to take a hurried shot. McSeveney tried to flick in a low corner by Ian Butler, but the ball skidded just wide.

The longer the game went on the more remarkable it was that the Tigers had not got a commanding lead against what was the poorest of Luton sides.

Good work by Houghton gave Wagstaff yet another chance, but though the inside-right turned quickly on the ball which Luton were slow to clear, he was not quick enough to prevent Tinsley smothering the chance.

WAGSTAFF HAD AN EVEN BETTER CHANCE JUST AFTERWARDS. WHEN IAN BUTLER AND CHILTON SET UP A WONDERFUL OPENING FOR HIM. ONLY TO SEE HIM VOLLEY OVER THE BAR FROM THE EDGE OF THE 6YD. AREA.

City, with Wagstaff missing yet another chance and Chilton also shooting wide, were beginning to look a bit desperate and their fans were getting frustrated when, in the 77th minute, HOUGHTON picked up a free-kick by Davidson, worked his way left and rattled a left-foot drive wide of Tinsley.

Four minutes later WAGSTAFF made up for his earlier errors by bursting through on to a pass by Houghton and slipping the ball past Tinsley.

Six minutes from the end O'ROURKE clipped the arrears for Luton with a diving header from a cross by Phillips, only seconds after he had had the ball in the net only to see the goal disallowed.

Attendance: 22,000 (63,002).

PRESS BOX JURY

HULL CITY



THE LATE flurry of goals from the Tigers could hardly excuse the countless finishing errors they made early in the game. The chief culprit was Ken Wagstaff, who cannot often have gone through a match in which he squandered so many chances.

The Tigers were always well on top, but Tinsley, and some desperate work by the rest of the defence, kept them out—when they were not wasting the chances.

Houghton was in fine form on his return, and Chilton led the line well, while Milner and Summers were in fine form in midfield.

McSeveney contributed plenty of useful work from the right wing and Ian Butler would probably have done better had he seen more of the ball.

Probably, because it came his way so rarely, the left-winger sometimes tended to do a little too much when in possession.—BRIAN TAYLOR.