

MISSED CHANCES AGAIN PUT PAID TO

THE TOWN'S HOPES

Deciding goal comes in the final minutes

LUTON TOWN 1, CHESTERFIELD 2

By CHILTERN

THERE was an unexpected late change in the Town team at outside-right, where Gordon Riddick, who had earlier been ruled out because he had missed some training this week because of a heavy cold, reported fully fit.

This, combined with the fact that Jimmy Gibson, the original choice for the position has not been too well recently, persuaded manager George Martin to make the alteration.

Other changes compared with Thursday's team were at inside-forward, where Rioch and Stark switched positions in pursuance of a theory by the manager based on what he saw during the mid-week match.

Chesterfield, with two victories immediately behind them, including a meritorious one at Aldershot on Wednesday, were unchanged. This meant that former Town player Gareth Salisbury, who left Luton for Colchester, continued at outside-left, from which position he has scored in the last two matches.

There was some sunshine just before the start and the wind had died down considerably so that conditions promised to be better than seemed probably early this morning.

The attendance was very much on the small side, once again, even though there was a slight boost for it by a little knot of Chesterfield supporters behind the Kenilworth Road goal.

First incident saw O'Rourke in a dangerous light because he picked up a loose ball and shot from the edge of the penalty area, unfortunately straight at Osborne, who went down and grabbed it competently.

When Chesterfield made ground, Jardine stuck out a foot in timely fashion to stop Hollett, and finally the ball went behind from Godfrey.

In midfield, the Town were looking much the more progressive, and again Osborne was brought into action, once more from O'Rourke, who

slackness in the defence, which backed away to open up a gap and Salisbury, cutting in, had time to pick his spot in the roof of the net before Thomson could make up the necessary ground.

There was nearly further trouble when Reid made a short pass inside his own penalty area to Jardine, when he might more easily and certainly more safely have pushed the ball back to Tinsley. To make matters worse, Jardine slipped and it took an almost superhuman effort by him to recover before Godfrey could take advantage of the slip.

O'Rourke was the Town's danger man, and for the fourth time in less than a quarter of an hour he brought Osborne into serious action, this time with a flying header from Riddick's cross that the goalkeeper just turned over the bar.

Certainly the Town were having the better of matters but that did not wipe out that shock early goal.

Then a heavy shower broke over the ground, and this caused a mass exodus from the uncovered Kenilworth Road end into the Bobbers' stand.

Back came the Town, and for a few seconds the Chesterfield defence was all at sea with the ball bobbing about in front of their goal.

In the end there was a corner which Sears belted into



BILLY STARK—he scored the Town's equaliser in the 19th minute, after Chesterfield had taken an early lead.

touch, and this particular raid ended with Thomson, from near the line, dropping the ball inches wide.

STARK HITS EQUALISER

The Town pressure was bound to tell sooner or later, and sure enough, they drew level after 19 minutes through STARK who scored his first goal for the club.

Forerunner of it was a long free kick by Jardine taken just inside the Chesterfield half after Whittaker was fouled. As the ball came across, O'Rourke nodded it sideways and Stark bundled it into the net from almost point-blank range.

Rightly, the Town were pushing the ball down the middle to the dangerous O'Rourke when the opportunity occurred and Osborne ran out to the edge of the penalty area.

Then Riddick did some bright work on the right wing, which he followed with a centre to which Rioch closed in and then provided the complete anticlimax by missing his kick completely.

FIRST AID FOR REFEREE

After 25 minutes the referee dropped as if he had been poleaxed. He had awarded a free-kick against the Town, but before the significance of the award had penetrated, Rivers hit the ball hard and it struck the referee literally between the eyes. He dropped like a log.

Trainer Charlie Watkins went on to give him first aid, and he was soon all right again.

From the free-kick, a dangerous situation developed when Tinsley aimed a punch at the ball, did not connect, and it flew off Hollett's head just over the bar. In the incident, Tinsley was injured, apparently having been rapped on his right shin-bone.

There was no question of a substitute—who on this occasion was Tony Reid—being introduced, because Tinsley made a speedy recovery.

A mistake by Jardine let in Henderson, who, however, finished badly, and the Town soon swung back into the attack with Reid bringing Osborne into action from 30 yards.

Osborne was being kept much busier than was Tinsley and had to move across sharply to catch a swinging, left-footed drive by Stark.

OPPORTUNITY WASTED

Unfortunately, Stark wasted a good opportunity when sent away by Riddick, because he put the ball behind with O'Rourke signalling furiously where he wanted the ball dropped in front of goal.

Chesterfield were more in it now, but it was mostly in midfield and they were not really threatening the Town goal. Then Stark went streaming through the middle after a pass by Whittaker, only to be foiled by the quick intervention of Sears.

Next, Tinsley had to come out of his goal to throw himself at the feet of Morton, who was penalised for a foul, and Stark gained possession from the free kick. From a header, the ball struck a group of defenders. Chesterfield went away and Thomson was penalised for a foul, but Tinsley

How the goals came

SALISBURY for Chesterfield after 7 minutes.
STARK for Luton after 19 minutes.
HENDERSON for Chesterfield after 83 minutes.

easily saved Salisbury's free kick.

Hands by Phelan which prevented a pass by O'Rourke going to Stark, gave the Town a free kick midway in the Chesterfield half. This was not profitable, however, but the Town came back again through a pass by Reid. Riddick, having difficulty in controlling the ball, sent it wide. It was by no means an easy chance.

Riddick went close after O'Rourke had picked up a pass out on the right wing and the final shot swirled just past the far post, with Osborne, at full stretch, well beaten.

The referee had a word with Hollett after he charged Tinsley in a Chesterfield raid on the stroke of half-time.

ESCAPE FOR CHESTERFIELD

Immediately afterwards, there was a remarkable escape at the Chesterfield end. The ball was sent across the face of the goal by Stark. Whittaker met it and tried to turn it in but only managed to square it. Riddick attempted to reach the ball, but it was finally cleared by Osborne.

Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 1
CHESTERFIELD 1

Straight from the restart the Town were dangerous, with O'Rourke crossing the ball low from the right.

Taylor made a half clearance and Stark volleyed the ball just over. It was a worthy attempt.

Salisbury and Godfrey had changed places. There had been a further heavy shower during the interval which made the turf even greasier and footholds difficult to keep.

PLAYER'S NAME TAKEN

Rivers had his name taken for a foul on Hughes which did not look as reprehensible as all that, or deserve such harsh treatment.

From this, O'Rourke made a solo bid to find a way down the middle, was sandwiched by two defenders, and the result was an indirect free-kick four yards outside the

penalty area. There was some preliminary discussion before the kick was taken and finally Reid pushed the ball sideways and back to Rioch, whose drive flew too high and wide.

A rugby-type tackle by Moore on Morton enabled Chesterfield to get on to the attack, but Reid cleared. O'Rourke just outpaced Taylor, only for his final shot, which had to be made in a hurry, to miss the post, with Osborne stranded.

A back pass by Thomson was too wide for Tinsley to prevent it going for a corner, from which Salisbury hit the ball squarely. Fortunately Riddick, back in defence, was in the line of flight.

There was a close call for the Town waiting for an off-side decision that did not come when Godfrey crossed the ball in front of goal and, when it came back from Salisbury, Hollett hooked it just too high.

PASSES GOING ASTRAY

There was a great effort by Henderson to put Chesterfield in the lead. He swung on to a great pass by Morton, and with Tinsley out of goal, the ball went uncomfortably close.

The Town were still very much in the game but very trouble at this stage was that the final pass was going wrong and too often the ball was over-running and going through harmlessly.

Moore went close with a first-time shot, and at the other end Godfrey was even nearer with a drive that missed the post by a narrow margin.

Hollett missed a good chance of putting Chesterfield ahead when he shot over from close range after Salisbury had centred.

Loud appeals for a penalty, with justification, were waved aside by the referee after O'Rourke measured his length while chasing a through pass by Whittaker.

There should have been a goal for the Town when Reid sent away Riddick, for whose centre Stark had closed in, but the centre skidded and hit the post.

Again, Stark missed with a

header, which was not so reprehensible this time because he literally had to hurl himself at the ball as it came across from O'Rourke. Possibly it would have been better if he had missed it, because Riddick was behind him, but it soared over.

There was no doubt that the Town should have been in front because they had had the better chances, but things were just not going right in front of goal.

Salisbury was now occupying his third position of the afternoon, the latest being inside-left, with Morton at outside-right.

Then the Town really were in luck's way when Chesterfield made a sharp raid in which Henderson found a gap down the middle and a goal looked absolutely certain, with only Tinsley to beat. However, his shot hit the foot of the post and rebounded into play.

HENDERSON'S SHOCK GOAL

Then came a real shock, because after 83 minutes Chesterfield took the lead through HENDERSON, who again took advantage of the yawning gap in the middle of the Town defence and made no mistake by driving the ball firmly past Tinsley.

Two minutes later, the Town should have been on level terms because Whittaker swung the ball over, Osborne was only able to flick it out, and Riddick headed against a post.

The Town defence was looking decidedly rock, and Godfrey was not far off the target with a shot from the edge of the penalty area. Then there was a diversion in front of the stand when a fight broke out among a couple of spectators, but a policeman quickly restored order.

There was another chance of an equaliser when Whittaker floated the ball across and it looked as though either O'Rourke or Riddick would score, but in the end Osborne was able to save full-length from the latter.

In the last minute, the Town launched a heavy raid, and Reid shot wide. Result:

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CHESTERFIELD 2