

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

TOWN LET LINCOLN OFF THE HOOK

Allowed a two-goals lead to disappear

By CHILTERN

LINCOLN CITY 2, LUTON TOWN 2

WHEN a team returns with a point gained away from home, it may well seem churlish to carp, but there is not much doubt that the Town had two within their grasp at Lincoln on Saturday and then let one slip, which might not have been through complacency, but was certainly caused by mistaken tactics.

Having gained a two-goals lead in the first half which effectively removed much of the Lincoln confidence, the Town should have gone for more goals.

Instead, either by accident or intent, they relaxed their grip, allowed themselves to be pushed back on to the defensive and the inevitable happened once Lincoln had secured the encouragement of their first goal.

Indeed, things turned out so that the Town had to fight hard in the closing stages to hang on to a point from a game which they should have won with ease.

With a goal in four minutes through READ after good work by French and Whittaker, the Town had the best possible start and it should have been improved because shortly afterwards, O'Rourke missed a great chance from Whittaker's cross.

However, a fine piece of opportunism by the persistent WHITTAKER increased their lead after 32 minutes and there should have been no question of them being caught.

Lincoln, though, were allowed to come back into the game and the trouble began in the 60th minute when CHAPMAN hooked the ball into the roof of the net following a corner, the award of which was disputed.

This was the first hint that Lincoln could get off the hook which they proceeded to do six minutes later when CHAPMAN scored again, this time with a header from another corner.

Just once, when Whittaker crashed the ball against the bar did the Town look as if they might regain their lead but the more threat in the closing stages came from Lincoln with Chapman being thwarted of the completion of a hat-trick by a couple of brilliant saves by Tinsley.

Too much blame could not be attached to the defence for the loss of a point. Rather was the trouble in the front line where, despite their two goals, there was not sufficient drive and determination.

Whittaker, and to a lesser extent Read, are exempt from this criticism, but O'Rourke

had a thin sort of time, as did Harber and French, though clever in mid-field, was apt to be too deliberate.

Once again, Woods dominated the middle with a strong display and Moore made an important contribution by putting the dangerous Hutchinson out of the game. Reid was often prominent by the way in which he tried to drive on the attack and he covered a tremendous amount of ground.

Edwards turned in another hard-battling display, Thomson did rather more than break even against the dangerous Hawksby, and although Tinsley collected some of the blame for the second goal, he certainly saved the day in the later stages.

LINCOLN CITY: Wakeham; Brooks, Hudson; Milner, Moore (L), Farmer; Holmes, Hutchinson, Chapman, Farrall, Hawksby.

LUTON TOWN: Tinsley; Thomson, Edwards; Reid, Woods, Moore (J); Harber, Read, O'Rourke, French, Whittaker.

Referee: J. S. Pickles, Stockport. Attendance: 2,784.

"Luton were cruising comfortably with a two-goal lead when Roy Chapman rocked them with a fine rescue act for Lincoln.

"Player-coach Chapman popped up to snatch two goals following corners, and save a point. But for some fine saves by Tinsley, he would have had a hat-trick. Luton produced some delightful football at the start, and the speed of their attacks had Lincoln in trouble."—"The People".

"Two goals in seven minutes in the last half-hour at Lincoln enabled the home side to save a point after having trailed two goals to snappy Luton at half-time.

"Lincoln were a shade unlucky to be in arrears at the interval, for they pounded the Luton defence for a good 20 minutes in the first half."—"Sunday Express".

"Lincoln were given an object lesson in the first half. Lincoln showed clearly that their policy was to use precision in defence and snatch the opportunist chances in attack.

"After half-time Lincoln switched to Luton's type of play and their reward came in the 60th minute when Chapman scored from a corner. Another corner, this time from Roger Holmes, enabled Chapman to head in Lincoln's second seven minutes later."—"Sunday Mirror".

"Lincoln City's player-coach Roy Chapman came battling in with two second-half goals to save Lincoln a point after they had been two down.

"Inside-right Tony Read put Luton into a four-minute lead. Then Luton broke away to score a surprise second goal their star forward Ray Whittaker beating Wakeham in the 32nd minute."—"News of the World".