

Two-goal Mike is the toast of 20,000 Town fans

By CHILTERN

68/69
(FLC)

LUTON TOWN 3, WATFORD 0.

LLEFT-WINGER Mike Harrison was the toast of 20,000 fans at Kenilworth Road last night as he swept his side into the second round of the Football League Cup with a goal early in each half against near rivals Watford.

His first came from a penalty given for a foul on Brian Lewis, and his second was a brilliant opportunist header. A third goal came from Brian Lewis.

The game produced thrilling frill-free stuff... typical cup-tie play between old "enemies."

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Read; Dougan, Jardine; Allen, Branston, Slough; Ryan, Lewis, Sheffield, Rioch, Harrison. Substitute: McDerment.

WATFORD: Slater; Welbourne, Williams; Hale, Garvey, Eddy; Scullion, Dyson, Garbett, Walley, Lewis. Substitute: Owen.

Referee: B. H. Daniels, of Rainham.

The Town attacked their favourite Oak Road end in the first half. It was perhaps a happy omen, for they made their usual tearaway start.

There were a couple of menacing runs by Harrison, the second of which was ended when Rioch shot high and wide.

There was a very big crowd, and they were seeing early signs of over-anxiety by both teams, and so far the accent had been on speed.

In the eighth minute there was a sensation when the dangerous Harrison made another sweeping run and a through pass to Brian Lewis. He looked a certain scorer until he was pulled down in the penalty area by Slater. There was no doubt about its being a spot kick, and HARRISON made no mistake with a low drive.

EXCITEMENT

Another foul on Lewis, this time by Garvey, meant the inside-right had to have attention before he could resume.

There was plenty of excitement,

though fouls were frequent. The Town looked for another penalty when Sheffield appeared to be pulled down, but this time they were unlucky.

The first real hint of danger from Watford came when Scullion made ground, and Dougan was forced to concede a corner—which was cleared promptly.

When Dyson made an ill-advised back-pass, Sheffield intercepted, and it needed a full-length save by Slater to extricate Watford.

Watford were consistent victims to the Town's offside trap, so that they were rarely reaching close quarters.

Harrison split the Watford defence with a magnificent cross-field pass, and Ryan raced in to meet the ball first time but sent it just wide of the far post.

DANGER MAN

There was no doubt that Harrison was the Town's danger man, and another centre from him was chased right out of goal by Slater, almost to the far touchline, where he fouled Ryan, who was desperately trying to control the ball.

When Watford finally broke out of defence, Sheffield fouled Scullion some 30 yards from the Town goal. The free kick landed at the feet of Bernard Lewis, whose high cross was punched over by Read, but not before he had been fouled.

It was still all-action, speedy stuff, with not a lot of cultured football, but enough of the Cup-tie excitement to keep the crowd happy.

Most of the attacking was still coming from the Town, and Sheffield was just beaten in the air by Garvey to a centre from Dougan.

WARNING

The referee had a stern word with Jardine after he crashed into the back of Scullion.

A brilliant tackle by Slough stopped a highly menacing run by Dyson as Watford, still sorely troubled by the Town's offside trap, sought to get back into the game.

When the Town launched

their next raid they appealed in vain for a penalty for hands by Garvey as he harassed Sheffield.

Half-time:

LUTON TOWN ... 1
WATFORD 0

It was stated at half-time that the gates at the Oak Road end of the ground were closed just before the start. People queueing there were sent around to Kenilworth Road.

There were a few casualties in the crowd behind the Oak Road goal.

With only three minutes of the second half gone, the Town increased their lead amid tremendous enthusiasm, and again HARRISON was the scorer.

In the 56th minute Watford introduced their substitute, Owen, for Bernard Lewis.

RIOCH SPECIAL

When Ryan was pulled down heavily, Rioch tried one of his special free kicks but it failed to get through the defensive wall.

With Watford pushed back on defence again, the Town forwards were finding it difficult to get their shots through.

At this stage, Ryan was having a fine spell, and from his centre Harrison tried a repetition of his second goal, but this time Slater saved.

Watford were fighting hard, but were rarely able to mount persistent pressure, and Read was seldom in trouble.

NAME TAKEN

Trouble broke out near the Watford right corner flag, involving right-back Welbourne, whose name went into the referee's book.

Lewis had to have attention before the free kick could be taken. Harrison crossed the ball and BRIAN LEWIS was there to sweep the ball past Slater for the Town's third goal after 71 minutes.

Harrison was having trouble with his left thigh, and with a quarter-of-an-hour remaining, he was taken off the field. He was given a great ovation, because he had had a hand in all three goals. McDerment came on as substitute.

Attendance: 20,167.