

FIRST GOAL ENDED TOWN'S CUP CHANCE

69/70
(F.L.C.)

SHEFFIELD UTD. 3, LUTON TOWN 0

FOR very nearly half-an-hour, the Town were very much in touch with the situation in this League Cup-tie at Bramall Lane on Tuesday, but once United scored, there was never real hope that the successful run in this competition could be continued.

In the end, one had to admit, without being disparaging to the Town, that there was a difference in class between the teams.

Not that this should have come as a surprise to the Luton faithful, who followed the team in their hundreds. After all, United have recent associations with the First Division, have now re-equipped themselves into an efficient, all-round outfit, and the advantage of playing on their own pitch was undeniable.

Even though the Town did not play up to their acknowledged best form, they were far from disgraced and, afterwards, there were generous tributes to the way in which they kept trying to play football.

Sportsmanlike

In fact, apart from a scuffle between Tees and Colquhoun who, according to United manager, John Harris, clashed earlier in the season at Charlton, and one or two rough tackles by Badger on French, the game was a thoroughly sportsmanlike affair.

Best opportunities to the Town — and these really amounted to no more than half-chances, due to the immaculate covering of a defence that has conceded only one goal at home this season — came in the opening stages.

Brilliant French

MacDonald made a couple of brave attempts, while Collins shot straight at Hodgkinson after some brilliant work by French, who emerged as the most dangerous Town forward.

In fact, he gave Badger a real "roasting," with speed and first-class footwork that took him through time and again. Unfortunately, the most was not made of his work, but this was a match that did point to the value of wingers raiding in an orthodox manner.

United had Woodward and, to a lesser extent, Reece, whereas all the Town's threat from the flanks had to be provided by French.

WOODWARD it was who began the Town's downfall with a finely taken goal in the 28th minute. Keen missed out in midfield in a tackle with Barlow, who swept the ball forward, and the right winger beat Bannister's challenge and drove the ball firmly past Davie.

Possibly, the main difference between the teams was that United mostly held control in midfield, and so were able to build up their attacks constructively from there.

On the other hand, too

Report by ERIC PUGH

many of the Town's raiding attempts consisted of rather hopeful, pushed through passes on which Tees and MacDonald, usually outnumbered, did not flourish to any marked extent.

The second goal, nine minutes after the interval was a quick-fire affair in which WOODWARD sent away Reece, and raced into position for the return to drive the ball through a yawning gap in defence.

Although the Town kept on fighting bravely, they could not achieve penetration and, in the 64th minute, Sheffield was brought on for Tees. Almost immediately, he hit the side netting and headed over, but he did not find much more scope

Davie impressive

It did not really need the third goal 14 minutes from the end, to underline that this was to be the end of the Town's League Cup career.

Uncertainty in defence following a free kick for hands by Keen, enabled TUDOR to beat Davie, who had not the slightest chance with any of the goals, and whose handling was most impressive.

As a desperate measure, the Town switched French to the right, pulled MacDonald out to the left and pushed Allen up as a striker, but it was too late.

With United making so much use of their extreme wings, and Branston uncertain and out with his timing in the middle, it followed that Dougan and Bannister were kept struggling.

Keen did not have too happy a time, and that left Allen with the midfield honours, and Slough with those in the back four.

There was a good deal of chasing by Collins who, however, tended to become dispossessed, and one could have a certain sympathy for Tees and MacDonald and, later Sheffield, as they chased what was often a forlorn hope. But the Town's man of the match, indisputably was French.

SHEFFIELD UNITED:
Hodgkinson; Badger, Heaton; Barlow, Colquhoun, Powell (Salmons); Woodward, Addison, Tudor, Staniforth, Reece.

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Dougan, Bannister; Keen, Branston, Slough; Collins, MacDonald, Tees (Sheffield), Allen, French.

Referee: R. B. Kirkpatrick, Leicester. Attendance: 16,884.