

DYNAMIC DUO BRING HOME THE POINTS

Hull City 0 Luton Town 2

TWO opportunist goals—by Don Givens and Malcolm Macdonald—sent Luton leap-frogging over arch-rivals Hull City in the Division Two race this afternoon.

Town always looked the better team against a Hull side which showed plenty of fight but lacked total strength at the back and it was a pity Luton couldn't increase their tally after the break.

Hull started in lively fashion when Houghton shot wide from a Wagstaff pass in the City's initial raid.

And then Wagstaff was only a couple of yards slow when he chased a good through ball from Houghton a few seconds later.

With BBC's Match of the Day cameras watching and recording, Luton realised they had to do something in return and Hoy and Court combined well in the middle but Jimmy Ryan's cross went behind.

Macdonald split the whole defence with a splendid pass to the left but Court spoiled things when his return to the goalmouth was badly directed and easily cleared.

The Town began to get a grip on things and John Ryan worked well on the right to get in a low cross to Macdonald who screwed his shot over the bar with his right foot.

Limping

But a minute later Luton's ambitions paid off when Hull full-back Beardsley pushed a half-hearted ball back to goalkeeper McKechnie and GIVENS, challenging well, pushed the ball out of his reach and into the far corner of the net.

Debutant Holbrook was limping away from a goalmouth injury when he was caught again by Hoy, who received a few harsh words from Hull skipper Neill and a warning from referee Laing who signalled that he had gone in with his foot up. But Holbrook, limping even more, was able to carry on.

After a free-kick from John Ryan had been kicked away, Hull looked to be on a good thing, but with Wagstaff racing through after a good chip, Slough brought the ball beautifully under control as it dropped over his shoulder and cleared the danger.

Hull hit back with a good-looking raid from the left and as Houghton charged in to make use of the bobbing ball,

Read ran out of his goal smartly to foil him and to clear.

And there were more thrills when Macdonald beat Neill and Beardsley all ends up for speed to cut between them to chase a long through ball; but just as he looked like scoring Luton's second, he was bravely stopped in full flight by McKechnie who hurled himself at the Luton leader's feet to make a daring save.

Courage

The fun continued as Hull tried to hit back through a Chilton power drive but Moore put himself courageously in its path and Hull were disappointed.

Luton hit straight back and went into a two-goal lead. Jimmy Ryan took the ball up the right and put it over for Givens, who got a lucky break, took the ball back along the by-line and put it back into the goalmouth for MACDONALD to head cheekily past McKechnie from close in.

But Hull were still full of it. And Beardsley, trying to make up for his earlier ghastly error, went close after a right-wing corner which Court had done well to concede.

Soon afterwards Macdonald was left with his hands on his hips in disbelief when his header from a Jimmy Ryan cross went over the top of an unguarded net after a brilliant move had been sparked by Hoy.

HT: Hull City 0, Luton Tn 2

Hull though never looked very steady in defence and when Macdonald beat Neill over on the right and put over a teasing centre Givens was only just wide with his header after making ground well.

Butler hit back for Hull with a raking long ball into the danger area, but Read was

down on it quickly after fumbling at the first attempt.

Then Macdonald put fear into Hull hearts when he outpaced Wilkinson, but his shot was over the top.

Luton had a scare when a good, low cross from Butler was pushed away by the diving Read, and Wagstaff darting in expectantly saw a close range effort diverted past the outside of a post.

Moore was fortunate to escape being penalised in the box when he bundled Wagstaff off the ball as the Hull player looked to have rounded him with an open goal in sight. But play was waved on.

Substitute

Luton again went close through Court following a Keen free-kick and in the 69th minute Hull sent on substitute Banks in place of full-back Beardsley.

Wilkinson fired in a fierce shot after a good right-wing move, but Keen blocked it and Luton broke for Macdonald to have another adventurous run which he ended when he shot into the side netting after rounding Neill.

Ryan set off on a breakaway but was beaten to the ball by McKechnie who ran a good 10 yards out of his area to boot it into the stand.

MATCH FACTS AT A GLANCE

TEAMS

HULL CITY: McKechnie; Beardsley, Devries; Wilkinson, Neill, Simpkin; Holbrook, Houghton, Chilton, Wagstaff, Butler. Sub: Banks.

LUTON TOWN: Read; John Ryan, Slough; Hoy, Nicholl, Moore; Jimmy Ryan, Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby.

Referee: Mr D. Laing (Preston).

GOALS

GIVENS (Luton) 11 mins

MACDONALD (Luton) 28 mins

Attendance: 18,343