

GO-GO CITY NEARLY GRAB POINT

THOUGH York City lost yet again at Bootham Crescent this afternoon—it was their fifth successive defeat—they went down with colours flying in easily the best game so far this season, just failing to snatch a point in a grandstand finish, in which Brian Pollard hit the post.

The small crowd was treated to a succession of thrills, and the players certainly earned the standing ovation they received at the end.

City played some exciting attacking football, as promised by Manager Wilf McGuinness, but paid for three bad mistakes, each one of which cost a goal.

City were two goals down before Ian Holmes pulled one back from a penalty. Then they fell further behind, but Pollard narrowed the gap and Luton just held out in the magnificent finish.

City had John Stone at right back in place of Peter Scott, who has flu. Luton were without John Faulkner (ex-Leeds), Jimmy Husband (ex-Everton) and John Aston (ex-Man. Utd.) because of flu.

YORK CITY: Crawford, Stone, Woodward, James, Swallow, Topping, Pollard, Holmes, Seal, Cave, McMordie. Sub: Hosker.

LUTON TOWN: Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Chambers, Price, P. Futcher, Fuccillo, King, R. Futcher, West, Jim Ryan. Sub: Thompson.

Referee: K. Walmsley (Blackpool). City, soon attacking, forced two corners on the right. James got his head to the first, but John Ryan cleared. Cave was caught offside in City's next raid.

After City had done all the early attacking, Luton went away to take a shock fifth-minute lead. CHAMBERS started the move just over the half-way line and exchanged passes with King twice before running clear into the penalty area, where he beat Crawford from 8yds. with a low shot just inside his left-hand post.

Because he left a gap, Crawford must take some of the blame for this goal.

Fuccillo, receiving a pass from Jim Ryan, had a low shot saved. Pollard made a long run down the right, beating Paul Futcher on the way, but his cross was cut out by Barber.

Good covering by James prevented a possible Luton goal after 22 minutes. Jim Ryan, who was operating mainly on the right, centred and Crawford punched the ball away. It went straight to Ron Futcher, who was well-placed, but James came across quickly to rob him in the act of shooting.

City committed a lot of players to the attack, but suffered another blow after 25 minutes, when they fell further behind. Fuccillo, going down the left, beat Stone near the goal line, and crossed low. Swallow was caught off balance, and RON FUTCHER hit the ball first-time from 6 yd past a helpless Crawford.

Three minutes later, when a swerving shot from John Ryan seemed bound for Crawford's right-hand corner, the keeper got to the ball at the last moment. Then Price had a powerful 25 yard drive saved.

Topping was cautioned after 31 minutes. He appeared to kick a Luton player after the ball had gone, and quickly departed from the scene when the referee tried to have a word with him. Eventually, Topping's name went into the book, though whether for dissent or a foul was not clear.

City pulled a goal back after 35 minutes. Barber dropped a header from Seal while being challenged

York City 2, Luton Town 3



Luton 'keeper Keith Barber claims a Jimmy Seal headed effort, with Ian Holmes rushing in to challenge.

by McMordie, and when the ball ran loose Topping fired a shot that would have gone in if John Ryan hadn't handled against the bar. From the inevitable penalty, HOLMES beat Barber with a rising shot to the goalkeeper's left as he went the other way.

This goal spurred City, and they hammered away at the Luton defence in search of the equaliser. They were unlucky when a brilliant three-man move ended with Cave crossing on the run only for the ball to rebound off a Luton defender.

Cave could again claim luck was not on his side when a 20 yard shot flew inches wide seconds before the interval.

Half-time:
York City 1
Luton Town 2

City resumed very strongly, with McMordie operating much farther forward than in recent games, and they thrilled the crowd with several attacks. Topping had a header saved after good work by Stone and Pollard.

Chambers was cautioned for kicking the ball away at a free kick under the referee's nose.

Right against the run of play, Luton went further ahead in the 53rd minute after a bad mistake by Holmes.

Swallow slipped a pass to Holmes just outside the centre circle, but Holmes unaccountably lost the ball and FUCILLO was on it quickly for a clear run, drawing Crawford out of goal and then slipping a shot past him just inside the left-hand post.

Close again

City had now paid for each of three mistakes with a goal.

They were dropped further behind when King glanced a header wide from Jim Ryan's centre and then shot over after a mistake by Stone.

Holmes came off after 57 min., Hosker taking his place.

A tremendous shot from Seal struck Paul Futcher, who was winded but continued. Cave shot wide after Hosker had tapped a short free kick to him after a foul on Pollard. Then Seal saw another hard shot hit the other Futcher twin.

City had lost some momentum, but the ystarted to string passes together again, and pulled a goal back after 75 min.

Ran for him

McMordie, cutting inside Paul Futcher, put a low pass across goal and, though Seal miskicked the ball ran kindly for POLLARD, who had no difficulty in scoring from close range with a left-foot shot.

City had an escape two minutes later. West started a move which was carried on by Jim Ryan, from whose centre West cracked a tremendous 25 yard shot against the bar. Ron Futcher netted from the rebound, but used his hand in bringing the ball under control.

Crawford turned a header from Price over the bar with 8 minutes remaining.

Barber dived to save a low effort from Pollard, who shot on the run after receiving a pass from Seal.

Only the woodwork saved Luton after 86min., when Seal put a lovely crossfield pass to Pollard, who again shot on the run — and saw Barber parry the swerving ball against the foot of his left-hand post.

As City piled everything into the attack in a grandstand finish, Price headed away a centre from Cave.

There was a magnificent run by Pollard with a minute to go, but Luton scrambled the ball to safety.

City forced two corners in injury time, but again Luton cleared.

Crowd: 3,132.

Scorers

CHAMBERS (Luton) 5 min.
RON FUTCHER (Luton)

25 min.

HOLMES (City) pen., 35 min.

FUCILLO (Luton) 53 min.

POLLARD (City) 75 min.

By
Malcolm
Huntington