

LATE ROBERTS GOAL EARN'S CITY POINT



A STRONG HULL CITY ATTACK is foiled by a packed Luton defence in this afternoon's game at Boothferry Park.

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HULL CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 1
ATTENDANCE: 4,045 (£2,045).

THERE was a general improvement in Hull City's play during this afternoon's match against Luton Town at Boothferry Park. Although there were some gaps in defence that could have been costly, the Tigers might well have deserved the lead by halftime because in their best spell, midway through the half, Malcolm Lord hammered a powerful shot against the bar.

City's defence survived but they were caught out nine minutes into the second half when Luton skipper Alan West slammed the ball home to put his side in front.

By DAVID BOND

City bounced back with a determined effort and their pressure was rewarded 10mins from the end when Dave Roberts headed home following a corner for his fourth goal of the season.

City again might have been penalised for occasional slack defensive work and there were some fine saves by Eddie Blackburn in goal. But there could be no quarrel about the batting approach to the game after the Easter disappointments although one point is surely not enough.

The attendance of 4,045 was City's lowest of the season. City full back Roger de Vries failed a fitness test on his hamstring injury and missed his first League game since the end of November, but Peter Daniel had recovered from his groin strain and returned after a one-match absence.

Gordon Nisbet reverted from midfield to the other full back berth and Ian Dobson was relegated to substitute. Winger Dave Stewart was recalled for his first game since the end of February to accommodate the switch.

Centre-forward Alan Warboys had recovered from his bruised calf and defender Dave Roberts passed a morning test on a slight thigh strain, but striker Dave Sunley was missing with an ankle injury.

Luton had traded player Ricky Hill fit again after a bout of bronchitis, and Graham Jones was moved to full back in place of Paul Price, who was a late withdrawal because of flu.

Regular goalkeeper Mija Alekic had not recovered from his stomach injury, so teenager Tony Knight continued to deputise.

HULL CITY: Blackburn, Knight, Daniel, Bremner, Croft, Roberts, Haigh, Lord, Warboys, Hawley, Stewart. Sub: Dobson.

LUTON TOWN: Knight, Jones, Carr, Hill, McNichol, P. Fletcher, Stein, West, R. Fletcher, Fucillo, Boarsma. Sub: Ingram.

City were forced back from the start as they tried to get down the right, and Haigh had to pass back to Blackburn. Then Boarsma was trapped offside. Haigh, Hawley and Warboys linked up, but Carr nipped in to pass back to Knight.

Luton won a free kick a few yards outside the penalty box and West tapped it to Fucillo, but Hawley came out to block the shot. Paul Fletcher tried a long pass to Boarsma but he was again caught offside.

Lord and Daniel got in a spot of trouble in defence and the ball was played back to Jones after they lost possession.

Croft stumbled and could only head the full back's cross down to West, whose drive flew wide.

A fine pass by Lord sent Stewart away, and eventually the Tigers won a corner, but Carr headed out. Stewart's flag kick.

Blackburn saved a shot from Boarsma that bounced awkwardly in front of him and at the other end Warboys shot wide after taking a pass from Nisbet—but he was offside in any case.

Warboys beat Knight to a cross by Haigh, but Hawley was forced out as he tried to turn on the edge of the area. Warboys got in a header from a Haigh free kick but Knight took it easily, and then the Hatter's keeper had to dash to the edge of his area to grab the ball after Stewart had beaten Carr.

City were in trouble when the ball rebounded off Roberts' Hill, who tried a chip. Blackburn parried the ball up into the air and then dropped back to hold it at the second attempt.

Stein's pace caused problems, but after he had pushed the ball inside to West, Ron Fletcher was caught offside.

Croft, Haigh, Bremner and Lord tried an intricate move, but McNichol played the ball back to Knight. Stewart beat Jones well, but Paul Fletcher came across to tackle.

Stein headed wide from a Boarsma cross before City produced their best attack so far. Warboys shielded the ball well and turned it back to Stewart and Knight had to dive to hold on to his long-range drive.

Blackburn had to save an effort from Carr at the other end and then Hill went down

the right and pushed the ball in to Stein, but Blackburn grabbed it before the Luton forward could control it properly.

A shocking back pass by Stewart let in Stein, but luckily for the Tigers his cross shot went just wide. Stein then raced on to a pass from Fletcher and Blackburn brought off a brilliant save, pushing the ball to his right where Nisbet turned it for a corner. The City keeper then held Boarsma's flag kick well.

The Tigers went close to taking the lead when a snap shot from 35yds by Lord struck the bar. As City kept pressing Haigh sent over a cross, and Knight dropped the ball as Warboys challenged but the City centre forward was

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another shooting chance but his effort went over. Blackburn then came down to save a long-range drive from Fucillo.

Warboys struck out a leg to get in a shot, but Carr had headed slightly but Knight clung to the ball.

WARBOYS BOOKED

Warboys was booked following an incident off the ball with McNichol while City railed down the right. There was a hold up while the Luton centre-half had treatment.

Fucillo tried a long-range effort that went well wide, and then Stewart burst down the left but after he had beaten one man Hull came across to concede a corner.

West headed Stewart's flag kick high into the air and when Warboys got in a header the Tigers won a further corner.

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Ron Fletcher won a corner against Roberts' land from Fucillo's flag kick was turned for another corner by Croft but following his third attempt a shot by Hill finally went over the bar after Bremner had cleared.

A long-range drive from Paul Fletcher thudded into Blackburn's chest and then Warboys took a pass from Daniel at the other end to crack in a strong drive which Knight held, although Bremner was lectured after following up too strongly against the keeper.

The Tigers won a corner on the left and following it they headed to Daniel from the flag kick and from the full-back's centre Roberts rose to beat the Luton defence and head home.

Stein shot wide after taking a pass from West. Then a terrible pass by Stewart allowed Jones to break down the right and then he slipped the ball across Nisbet had to come in and save away a corner. Blackburn pained the ball away for another corner from Fucillo's flag kick, but following this the City keeper held a header from Paul Fletcher.

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SCOREBOARD

WEST (Luton) 54 mins.
ROBERTS (City) ... 76 mins.

penalised Lor then unleashed another powerful long-range drive and Knight flung himself to his left to push the ball away. Hawley ran to collect and his centre dropped on to the roof of the net via a deflection.

The corner was not properly cleared and Lord did well to get in a centre from the left which Roberts headed forwards goal only to see Paul Fletcher head clear from almost on the line.

The Tigers, who were beginning to look far more dangerous won a free kick on the side of the penalty area and Bremner's cross took a deflection to the far post where Stewart blasted wide.

City were split when West sent Boarsma away and although Roberts got his head to the cross the ball was to Ron Fletcher. He shot wide as Bremner came in to challenge.

HAWLEY'S CHANCE

Hawley found himself in a good position following a throw-in, but shot into the side netting.

Nisbet was warned after a foul on Stein, and from the free kick on the left by Boarsma the Luton outside-right headed wide.

Lord and Daniel linked well in a promising move down the left for City, but it came to nothing and then Hawley got in a cross from the right but Knight held it confidently.

Warboys turned well to get in a centre from the left, but it flew across the goalmouth with nobody able to apply a finishing touch.

H.T.: Hull City 0, Luton Town 0

Blackburn held a Jones centre while at the other end McNichol headed out from a Daniel cross. Knight then had to dash out of his area to back the ball away as Stewart chased a back-pass from Ron Fletcher which was quite short.

Hawley won a corner after chasing a Bremner pass, but Stewart wasted the flag kick.

Daniel conceded a corner and Blackburn could get only one hand to Boarsma's flag kick, and from close range Stein blasted high over the bar.

Boarsma sent West away but he put his centre behind then Blackburn pulled off a brilliant point-blank save to turn away a drive from Stein. Following the corner there was a scramble when Fucillo hammered the ball across the goalmouth. Warboys mis-kicked completely but Paul Fletcher shot over.

CALM GOAL

Luton came away to take the lead, however. West and Hill linked for Jones to send over a centre and there was a slight hesitancy in City's defence as West calmly banged the ball into the roof of the net.

In City's reply, a Warboys cross flashed across the goalmouth and then Knight held a corner by Lord well.

A shot by Stein on the turn went narrowly wide of the far post. Blackburn moved out quickly to take the ball off Boarsma's feet after it had rebounded off Stein following a Hill centre.

A pass by West gave Stein

Fucillo cut in neatly to try a shot but it was blocked by Daniel.

After a foul by Croft a free kick rebounded for a corner which came to nothing. Then Blackburn came to City's rescue brilliantly pushing out a Fucillo drive and then showing himself bravely at Ron Fletcher's feet to turn the ball for a corner from the rebound.

Roberts gave away another corner but this one was cleared by Hawley.

City had a great chance to take the lead when Jones left a long cross from Haigh, but it bounced a little awkwardly for Stewart and he missed altogether.

Stack marking allowed Stein a shooting chance but his effort on the turn went over.



HULL CITY STRIKER Alan Warboys rounds Luton defender Graham Jones to set up an attack for the Tigers at Boothferry Park this afternoon.