

Red card completes a shambles at Coventry

THE determination to keep a clean sheet against Liverpool was born from a desperate defensive flop against Coventry.

The Town were a shambles at Highfield Road, and deserved defeat for defending which David Pleat condemned as horrific.

Striker sent off

John Dreyer had one of the worst nightmares, and so did Sean Farrell, who should be ashamed on two counts for his sending off in the 17th minute.

His clattering foul on Trevor Peake, a fellow pro, and now a Town colleague, was no credit to football, nor to Farrell. It was also a blow to his team, which was already a goal down.

Three down at the interval, the ten men had no chance of fighting back, but there was at least a 20-minute spell after the break when the Town looked something like a football team.

Philip Gray went on in place of Brian Stein, and was much more menacing as Kingsley Black joined him in attack.

**COVENTRY CITY 5
LUTON TOWN 0**

Mr. Pleat kept his anger private, and insisted that he and his players would learn lessons. They had certainly been taught one.

If the ten men could have held out until half-time at only two down, he said, he felt they had a chance of getting back into it.

But Coventry netted a third in injury time, and the three-goal lead enabled them to cruise through the second half.

Gaps at the back

At least the Town kept plugging away, but inevitably the search for the season's first goal to restore a little pride left spaces in midfield and defence, and Coventry took advantage to score two more in three minutes midway through the second half.

The match details

TOWN: Chamberlain; Beaumont, Rodger, Dreyer, Harvey; Pembridge, McDonough, Preece, Black, Stein (Gray HT); Farrell.

COVENTRY: Ogrizovic; Borrows, Pearce, Peake, McGrath; Woods, Robson, Gynn, Smith; Rosario, Gallacher (Furlong, 68 mins).

GOALS: Two for Kevin Gallacher, 6 and 38 mins; Robert Rosario in injury time at the end of the first half; David Smith, 67 mins; Paul Furlong 71 mins.

OTHER STRIKES: Town two saved, seven wide, one netted by Graham Rodger but disallowed for hands; Coventry six saved, five wide and one hit a post leading to a goal from the rebound. Corners: 6-3 to Coventry.

SENT OFF: Sean Farrell for playing Trevor Peake with his elbow. Booked: Robert Rosario for delaying a free kick; Stewart Robson, dissent.

REFEREE: Mike Bailey, Cambridge. The Town boss thought he was wrong to send off Farrell. I thought the ref was right, and Philip Gray might have been lucky to escape a caution when he went down in a heap in what looked like an attempt to con the ref into believing Andy Pearce had committed violence.

ATTENDANCE: 10,084, including a good Town following who deserved more for their money from their team.

ENTERTAINMENT: Truly awful for Town fans as the defence assisted in laying on goals for Coventry and the attack rarely looked like profiting at the other end.