

DERBY HAD POWER ON THE WINGS

No Thrust Town Passed Up Two Vital Points

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 1, DERBY COUNTY 2

THIS match left one with the disquieting sort of feeling that the Town had passed up a golden opportunity to ease themselves out of the relegation zone, purely because of their old failing of insufficient thrust in front of goal.

Certainly, it was yet another close thing that they should not have lost and the basic difference between the teams was that Derby had the greater strength on the wings and this led to their triumph in the finish.

While Walden wasted as good a supply of material as he has had this season and Fleming fiddled too much, Roby and McCann got on with the job, found themselves plenty of room, and Bramwell in particular, and McNally to a lesser degree, had anything but a happy afternoon.

Yet there was a lot about which to be satisfied so far as the Town's first-half display was concerned. There was more order and cohesion than in most previous home matches up to the point of the use of the final pass, which was far too inaccurate.

Even so, chances were created—and missed—and on balance the Town goal had rather the greater number of close calls. Although the goals did not come, there was plenty of excitement, and, if the Town had built up the lead they should, all their supporters would have been well satisfied.

At the start of the second half they shaped like a team destined to win, but they gradually faded out as the goals just would not come, and Derby, more accurate in their movement, began to exert pressure.

TWO QUICK GOALS

Even so, it was mildly surprising when they took the lead after 71 minutes, when CURRY swung on to a centre by Roby and beat the diving Baynham.

For a spell after that the Town seemed stunned, and a second goal came 10 minutes later when HUTCHINSON caught Bramwell in a muddle and his lofted shot passed just too high for Baynham's hands.

Not until then did the Town rally, and they got back into the game two minutes later, when TURNER accepted a close-range chance.

However, although they threw everything into attack, they could not snatch the point that would have been most welcome.

Apart from the lack of real service from the wings, McGuffie, after a fair first half, lapsed into disappointing form and the best of the front line was Davies who was most impressive before the interval when he might have had a couple of goals had luck really been running with him.

For Turner it was a frustrating afternoon because he was closely marked as part of Derby's 4-2-4

plan and did not really receive the best of service.

There could not be a great deal of complaint about the middle line because Morton was always prominent, Pacey was strong in his dealings with Curry and Lownds made a very fair substitute for Groves, making up in enthusiasm what he lacked in polish.

Some need for tightening up in the marking of the full-backs was very evident, particularly in the case of Bramwell and, in the end, it was Roby who proved to be the match-winner.

Baynham was very confident and capable, but there was a distinct suspicion that he was caught unawares and not well positioned when the second goal came.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McNally, Bramwell; Morton, Pacey, Lownds; Walden, Davies, Turner, McGuffie, Fleming.

DERBY COUNTY: Oxford; Barrowcliffe, Ferguson; Young, Moore, Waller; Roby, Parry, Curry, Hutchinson, McCann.

Referee: L. Callaghan. Merthyr. Attendance: 7,635.

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

"Luton did everything right until they reached the penalty area and then all their confidence and poise eluded them.

"Derby's 4-2-4 plan, with Roy Young mostly playing in a space behind Les Moore, seemed to defeat Luton utterly. Derby with more limited chances looked better marksmen but they did not really trouble Ron Baynham until 19 minutes from the end." — "The People."

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"Luton should have won, for they had sufficient chances. But no one could really deny that Derby were worth the points. For one thing Derby were better ordered in defence where former centre-half Roy Young wearing the right-half jersey performed as an extra pivot and played most of the game behind Les Moore.

"This gave Derby a depth in defence which Luton could never fathom." — "Sunday Express."

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"Luton took another step back towards Division III, and if they don't get some goal-scoring forwards quickly, they are doomed.

"Brightness in the gloom was the display of new signing Ron Davies, making his home debut at inside-right. Only fine anticipation by goalkeeper Ken Oxford prevented Davies scoring at least twice." — "Sunday Pictorial."

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"Both sides produced good football, Luton's Ron Davies making an impressive home debut. Davies had a wonderful chance to open his account before the interval, but Oxford scrambled the ball away with a well timed interception when the Luton man was clean through.

"In the second half Derby made good use of wingmen Roby and McCann. Turner, who scored Luton's goal in the 83rd minute was unlucky when he hit a post from Walden's centre." — "News of the World."