

TOWN'S CRUMB OF COMFORT

RIVALS IN DISTRESS WERE BEATEN, TOO

Forwards Failed Again At Huddersfield

By CHILTERN

JUST about the only crumb of comfort the Town had from last Saturday was that their companions in distress, Walsall, Derby County and Charlton, all obliged by losing, with the result that the Town's position did not worsen after their defeat at Huddersfield.

But their general display was not at all encouraging and I had the feeling that they were let off the hook by Huddersfield, who certainly did not make the most of their scoring chances during the second half when they were well on top.

FOR half-an-hour, they kept on a more or less even keel without a great deal of difficulty but, as has happened so frequently in away matches this season, all hope of improving their situation seemed to die once they went into arrears.

Increasingly, the England outside-left, O'Grady, had been causing trouble to the Town defence, and it was from a centre from him that Stokes flashed the

ball into the net with his head, just beating a determined challenge by Pacey, in the 31st minute.

Kelly Turned The Ball Into Own Net

THIS was not entirely unexpected, because Huddersfield had been showing the more thrust, but they could scarcely have anticipated the slice of luck that

brought them their second goal five minutes from half-time.

A mistake by Turner let in Beltany, who crossed the ball low, and Kelly in his attempt to clear deflected it into the net well out of Baynham's reach.

To all intents and purposes, the match ended there because the Town never suggested that they had the forward power to retrieve such a situation and they produced very few headaches for the home defence after the interval.

Davies Was The Only Consistent Forward

IN fact, as an attacking force, the Town were almost completely out of the picture, with only Davies showing anything in the way of consistency, but the support he received was of the most sketchy nature.

Player who was missed more than anybody was Walden, because Clapton was never lively enough or thrustful enough to trouble Coddington, who was in only because neither Wilson nor Parker was fit.

On the other wing, too, Jardine was ineffective, and the upshot was that very little of a workable nature came from either flank.

More Method And Speed Are Needed

IN an inside forward again, McGuffie produced nothing like the form of which he is capable, and his approach to the task was altogether too ponderous, with his distribution being well below standard.

Apart from Davies, only Turner looked as if he might accomplish something, and there must be more method and speed of operation in attack if the Town are to get out of their present trouble.

Worth-while shots were few and far between, so that Wood had a comfortable afternoon compared with that experienced by Baynham, who was constantly in action.

Daniel Justified His Promotion

FORTUNATELY for the Town, he was in his most confident form, otherwise they might have been on the losing end of a debacle, and, indeed, could have been anyway but for Huddersfield's strangely lethargic approach after the interval.

At the same time, due credit should be given to some stout-hearted defensive work, particularly by Kelly, who curbed the threat from Stokes, and Daniel, who made an impressive return to the team.

Certainly, the inclusion of the latter brought a much-needed tightening up, and he has a first-class chance of gaining the regular League football he wants.

Alston Makes His Decision Tomorrow

Alex Alston, the Preston North End inside-forward for whom the Town have agreed an £11,000 fee, will let the Town know his decision about joining them tomorrow morning.

I understand that there is one detail which he has to discuss with Preston, and Manager Bill Harvey, to whom Alston spoke over the phone yesterday, said, "He seems quite happy about coming here and it looks as if it will be all right."

McNally Harassed By O'Grady

ALMOST throughout the first half McNally was given a harassing time by O'Grady, who beat him continually, but, creditably, the full-back stuck to his job and showed up in a much more favourable light after the interval.

Of course, the weakness of the front line is making the task of defence more onerous, and neither Groves nor Pacey could be said to have achieved the necessary grip in midfield.

Both tried hard enough, but the domination was never there and Huddersfield were able to push the ball about much as they pleased. Altogether, not a very encouraging performance by the Town, but one that was much in line with recent away displays.

Caleb Played Twice In One Day

WITH a much re-organised team which included at right-back Caleb, who had already appeared at centre-half in the morning for the youth team, the Town Reserves put on a first-class display to beat Combination leaders Arsenal 2-0 at Kenilworth-road.

Most of the honours in this game must go to the defence which never put a foot wrong during spells of heavy Arsenal attacking in the opening minutes of each half. Goalkeeper Ross was outstanding and a cool half-back line of Morton, Cope and Lownds was generally on top of the Arsenal inside trio.

In the forward line Brennan and Clarke got through a tremendous amount of work without managing to score, and Chandler crowned a good display by scoring both the Luton goals, one in each half.