

WHAT THE OTHER CRITICS SAID

TOWN NEARLY LEFT WINNER TOO LATE

O'Rourke Saved Their Faces In Last Minute

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN 2, HULL CITY 1

"A hotly disputed goal by young centre-forward John O'Rourke a minute from the end gave Luton both points. Hull players were still protesting fiercely after the final whistle.

"As I saw it, right-half Pacey's shot was deflected off Turner to O'Rourke standing on his own. It looked like offside to me. But Luton should not have needed this doubtful decider. O'Rourke missed a fast cross from the left-wing a few yards out."—"The People."

"Luton, the team that seem to like making hard work for themselves, did it again against Hull, who protested vehemently against the award of an 89th minute goal by John O'Rourke. Hull claimed O'Rourke was offside as he closed in on a deflection from a shot by skipper Dave Pacey. But referee Jack Lowry, of Neath, after a quick glance at his linesman, signalled a goal.

"This was the first time Luton had been ahead in a match which they should have sewn up by half-time."—"Sunday Express."

"Luton's up and coming young attack leader John O'Rourke capped another spirited and skilful display with an opportunist goal in the last minute.

"With the knack of being on the right spot at the right time, he seized on to a deflection from a Dave Pacey shot, to ram the ball into the net from close in."—"Sunday Mirror."

"Dave Pacey—an inspiration—marshalled the defence as Hull took up the running. It was a move created by Pacey that led to Luton's equaliser through McKechnie in the 65th minute, and he also laid on the winner."—"News of the World."

JUST as most supporters had given up hope of the Town gaining a much-needed victory at Kenilworth-road on Saturday and, in fact, some had already made their way home, what by then had become the unexpected happened.

With the time ticking past 89 minutes, Pacey drove on an attack with a shot that rebounded off a defender and via Turner's head, it is said, it went to O'ROURKE who drove in a dramatic winner.

Hull, who from the start, had apparently set their sights on a draw, did not like the decision, were still protesting about it as the whistle went for the end and their behind-the-scenes comments were completely unprintable.

They contended that O'Rourke was offside, but there was no signal from the linesman involved and that was good enough for the referee.

In leaving their final effort so late, the Town tempted the fates because they had sufficient chances in the first half, when they more or less dictated the play, to have made certain of both points.

Twice, O'Rourke had efforts deflected on to the woodwork and some good chances were missed, notably one by Turner who, nine times out of ten, would have made no mistake from the position in which he found himself.

HULL TOOK SURPRISE LEAD

Upshot was that they found themselves a goal down at half-time when, after 22 minutes, Hull made one of their few sallies and, following a free kick, Rafferty forced Baynham to make a fine save, at the end of which he could not hang on to the ball, and HENDERSON accepted a simple chance.

Eight minutes from half-time, McBain gashed his right shin badly but, after a short spell on the right wing, went back to his own position which he retained during the whole of the second

half, after the wound, which could not be stitched, was padded up.

In the early stages after the break, Hull were more attack-minded than had been the case previously and it was not until the Town had switched their forward line that they drew level.

Walden, who had been patently unhappy on the left, crossed over, with Turner as his partner, and McKechnie went to outside-left.

It may have been mere coincidence, but it was McKECHNIE, in his new-found position, who drove in the equaliser after a shot by Pacey had rebounded.

After that, there was promise of goals by the Town, but no fulfilment until those last seconds when O'Rourke performed what might prove to be an invaluable rescue act.

Basically, the Town are playing much better and with far more spirit than they were in the pre-Christmas era. For one thing, the defence is not conceding so many goals that are in the preventable category.

CREDIT TO HALF-BACK LINE

Much of the credit for this goes to the half-back line in which Pacey is bearing the cares of captaincy lightly and is playing most consistently, as is the hard-tackling Lownds.

With Caleb approaching the centre-half job in a sensible way which belies his comparative lack of experience, there seems altogether more reliability in the rearguard and this is emphasised by the capable way in which McBain and Bramwell are playing.

Forward, the big handicap at the moment is the lack of a regular outside-left, which is tending to unbalance the line. Turner had a very moderate time on his return to the team, and the most dangerous of the forwards was O'Rourke.

Perhaps his very exuberance causes him to miss chances, but his enthusiastic approach is a valuable asset and he is getting vital goals.

While McKechnie did a certain amount of harassing against a tightly packed defence, he did not find many loopholes, and Reid, not so prominent as he was the previous week, all the same did some useful work, though his distribution went awry at times.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; McBain, Bramwell; Pacey, Caleb, Lownds; Turner, McKechnie, O'Rourke, Reid, Walden.

HULL CITY: Swan; Davidson, Butler; Sharpe, Milner, Simpkin; Chilton, Wilkinson, Rafferty, Henderson, McSeveney.

Referee: J. Lowry, Neath. Attendance: 5,267.