

PROMOTION RIVALS WATCHED THE TOWN



SAW FINE DISPLAY IN HEAVY GOING

Jesse Pye's Quick Goals Brought Vital Points

By Chiltern

That Sheffield United and Huddersfield Town are very much alive to the threat that the Town hold to their promotion chances was demonstrated at Nottingham on Thursday when the former club took their players to watch the Town in action, while Huddersfield's manager, Andy Beattie, was there and so was former Luton star, Willie Davie.

What they saw probably did not relieve their anxiety, for the Town went on to gain their sixth away win of the season in more masterful style than the bare result would suggest.

ALTHOUGH it was not until the last quarter of an hour that things began to happen in a positive way, the Town looked winners from the start, always providing that they could break the ice and gain that all-important first goal.

Why they had not secured a commanding lead of three goals by half-time was something most people could not understand, for they had the County defence struggling from the opening minutes.

There were visions of another big Luton score against this Notts team, who have no reason to remember, with any real gratitude, the bulk of their meetings with the Town.

Progressive Football Found The Gaps

FAST, progressive football on the very heavy pitch tore gaps in the home defence, but they held out in spite of some alarming experiences early in the game.

Only a brilliant last split-second save by Bradley prevented Hugh McJarrow marking his return to the team with a spectacularly-headed goal after five minutes.

He connected solidly with a centre from Mitchell and Bradley just managed to slip the ball over the bar.

Centres from Moore and Mitchell were cleared off the goal-line and Deans stopped a shot from Pye that had Bradley beaten.

happening, too, to the minutes which seemed to be flying, with the Town no nearer to what was their due reward.

Miss By Pye—Then Two Quick Goals

WHEN Pye dribbled the ball past Bradley and shaped to put it into the empty net, we thought success had arrived at last.

Unfortunately, his dribble had left him angled and his attempt to lob the ball over Leuty came unstuck, for the centre-half headed away and prevented certain disaster in doing so.

A few minutes after that, in the 76th to be precise, Pye obtained that elusive goal and, two minutes later, he had the ball in the net again to make victory apparently certain for the Town.

Five-Men Movement Brought The Second

THE first came when Mitchell fastened on to a clearance in midfield and swept the ball low down the middle.

Pye took the ball in his stride, brushed off an attempted tackle by Leuty and drove it low past the advancing Bradley.

Then a movement in which Morton, Dunne, Cullen and Mitchell took part with crisp passing, ended with Mitchell, from the outside-right position, crossing the ball low to the centre-forward, who, after stopping it with one foot, stabbed it with the other through a very narrow space between Bradley and the post.

Penalty Put New Heart Into Notts

ON two previous occasions at Meadow-lane, the Town have lost points in the closing minutes through strong rallies by the County and we began to wonder whether something similar was going to happen in this match.

One minute the Town were going along smoothly with a two-goal lead, and the next, the County had got back to within striking distance from a penalty awarded against Owen for pulling down McPherson.

My view, shared by many others, was that it was a harsh decision, as both players went together for the ball, which Owen got out of danger cleanly with his foot.

Frank Broome Made No Mistake

HOWEVER, there it was, a penalty-kick eight minutes from the end, and Frank Broome, an expert in this direction, made no mistake with a beautifully-placed shot with the outside of his right foot.

The danger originated in the

FOR THE RECORDS

NOTTS COUNTY 1
Broome (penalty)

LUTON TOWN 2
Pye (2)

NOTTS COUNTY:
Bradley; Southwell, Deans;
Adamson, Leuty, Johnston;
Broome, Evans, McPherson
(K), Wylie, Edwards.

LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Dunne, Aherne;
Morton, Owen, Watkins;
Cullen, Moore, Pye, McJarrow, Mitchell.

Referee: E. S. Vickery, Bristol.

Attendance: 8,648.

first place from Baynham throwing the ball to Owen when he could have cleared upfield, but the centre-half called for the ball. Almost immediately, there was a clear case for a penalty at the other end when Leuty tackled Pye from behind and the centre-forward had to have attention for a damaged ankle.

Penalty Claims In The Last Minute

IN fact, there could have been a sensational finish to this match with three penalties in the last eight minutes for, just before the final whistle, there were loud claims by the County for another award when the ball struck Morton on the hand.

Fortunately for the Town, the referee decided that it came under the heading of "unintentional" and justice was done, for it would have been a complete travesty had the County been able to rescue a point after having had to play second fiddle throughout.

Pye Caused County To Make Mistakes

ONCE again the Town owed a great deal to Pye, who prompted, schemed, and was continually prodding the County defence into making mistakes.

Leuty put up a brave fight against him and made many successful tackles, but he could never prevent Pye from bringing the rest of the front line into the game.

Next to Pye in the honours list came the wingers, Cullen and Mitchell, both of whom were most successful, and the former's footwork was often of the highest order, particularly in the first half, when he gave Deans a most worrying time.

McJarrow Can Be An Asset At Inside-Left

MITCHELL was very confident in his approach work, frequently beat Southwell, and laid on the passes from which both goals came.

After his long spell in the Combination side, McJarrow obviously noticed the change in the tempo of the game, but he played some useful football which suggests that he will be an asset at inside-forward once he has settled down to the speed of the Second Division and when he uses the ball a little more quickly.

There were occasions when he beat an opponent when it was not altogether necessary, but, on the whole, he came through quite well.

Win Might Have Been More Convincing

THERE was a bustling, hard-working display from Moore, a dangerous raider in the first half, but he fell away rather a lot after the interval.

Even so, he might well have landed a couple of goals for himself and, in fact, had things run right for the forwards in front of goal and perhaps had their finishing been on a little more decisive note, they would have sailed home really handsome winners.

As it was, they won well in the end, thanks to the way in which Pye snapped up those two chances.

Dunne Came In At The Last Minute

THE day began with the bad news that Leslie Jones had been ill overnight and was a doubtful starter and, hurriedly, the Town had to send for Seamus Dunne, who lost his place to Jones just before Christmas.

Jones travelled with the team, but, on arrival, did not feel well enough to play, so Dunne deputised, and a very good job he made of it against quite a troublesome winger in the former Forest and Southampton player, Jack Edwards.

Dunne's quickness in recovery was an asset in the mud, and it says much for him that the defence was in real trouble only on rare occasions throughout the match.

Cast-Iron Look About Defence

ALWAYS, there was a cast-iron look about it, with Morton and Watkins largely blotting the County's inside-forwards out of the game and Owen taking a firm grip on the dashing, bustling McPherson.

Watkins, always strong, played

particularly well, and both wing-halves used the ball to advantage.

The defence as a whole was full of confidence, well-knit and safe, and Aherne was another who touched top form in giving a display in which his kicking was first-class.

Behind them there was Baynham, always ready to leave his goal to snatch the ball away from an oncoming forward and looking supremely efficient in everything he did.

Tributes To Town From Managers

THE Town looked like a team chasing promotion, and their showing prompted their former manager, George Martin, now the Aston Villa chief, to predict that they will land the prize.

From George Jobey, Mansfield Town and former Derby County manager, came the comment: "The best football I have seen this season."

Before the match the County manager, Eric Houghton, was telling me how surprised he was that Bolton had beaten the Town in the Cup-tie.

"I thought Luton were a certainty," he said, and, doubtless, apart from the County's experience of Bolton, he was judging by the way in which they disposed of Manchester City.

Davie Is Looking Forward To Next Week

WILLIE DAVIE was saying how much he is looking forward to making a return to Luton with Huddersfield next Saturday, and his presence will be an added attraction to a match that looks likely to be a number one crowd-puller.

Other football personalities at Thursday's game were Peter Doherty, together with the Doncaster Rovers' players; Bob Denison, manager of Northampton Town; Bill Anderson (Lincoln City); and Stuart McMillan, manager, and Jack Nicholas, chief scout, of Derby County.

One Point Will Make Reserves Champions

CHEERING bit of news heard by the Town players on their homeward journey was that Leicester City Reserves had dropped a home point to Bristol City in the Football Combination (Division II).

This partial failure means that only a near-miracle can prevent the Town from lifting the title.

If they win their remaining match, Leicester can only equal the Town's total of 47 points, and the Town have two home games to play to complete their

programme. So, one point out of four will do the trick.

One interesting factor is that Bournemouth, who have to visit here, can take fourth place and pip Swansea for promotion by beating the Town at Kenilworth-road, so that there will be quite a lot attaching to this meeting.

DOMINOES

KENT'S BEAT ELECTROLUX

They Now Lead In Division IV

Labour slipped again in Division I of the Clubs' Dominoes League and Commer are now very comfortably placed at the top with a six points lead.

It is "as you were" in Division II and III but Kent's helped themselves to the lead in Division IV when they trounced their closest rivals, Electrolux.

DIV. I.
Davis 4, Labour 3
Davis 2, Cleansing 5
Hayward 2, Commer 5
Brown & G. 3, High Town 4
Luton Legion 4, T.U.C. 3
Social 3, Leagrave 4
Beech Hill 2, Stopsley 5
Electrolux 4, Labour 3

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Commer	19	14	5	83	50	28
High Town	19	11	8	75	58	21
Labour	19	11	8	74	59	22
Davis	19	10	9	68	65	20
Electrolux	19	10	9	67	66	20
Social	19	10	9	62	71	20
Luton Legion	19	10	9	59	74	20
Stopsley	19	9	10	68	64	18
Brown & G.	19	9	10	67	66	18
Hayward-T.	19	9	10	62	71	18
T.U.C.	19	8	11	65	68	16
Leagrave Leg.	19	8	11	63	70	16
Cleansing	19	8	11	58	75	16
Beech Hill	19	7	12	55	78	14

DIV. II
Hayward "C" 3, Tudor 4
Commer "B" 3, Hayward "B" 4
R.A.O.B. 5, Brewery 2
Leagrave Legion 4, Social 3
Sundon Park "B" 1, Beech Hill 6
Labour 4, Napier 3
Brewery 1, Beech Hill 6

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Commer	17	11	6	70	49	22
Hayward "C"	17	11	6	67	52	22
Sundon "B"	17	11	7	65	61	22
Beech Hill	17	10	7	66	53	20
Leagrave Leg.	17	10	7	63	56	20
Napier	18	10	8	67	59	20
Hayward "B"	18	10	8	59	67	20
R.A.O.B.	17	9	8	59	60	18
Social	17	8	9	58	61	16
Sundon "A"	17	7	10	57	62	14
Tudor	18	6	12	58	68	12
Labour	17	5	12	50	69	10
Brewery	18	5	13	52	74	10

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