

He Just Got There



Yeovil's goalkeeper, Dyke, just managed to get his foot to a shot from Merthyr's centre-forward, Bill Jarman, during a tussle near the Yeovil goalmouth in the first half at Penyarden Park last Saturday.

MERTHYR WON — BUT MISSED CHANCES

HARD-FOUGHT TUSSLE WITH YEOVIL

(Merthyr 1, Yeovil 0)

(Official attendance 3,500)

Although Merthyr collected two useful Southern League points at Penyarden Park on Saturday with a four minute from the end goal against English Cup fighters, Yeovil, they should have achieved a more clear cut victory. Several chances were lost through shakiness and inaccuracy in front of goal. This was not the only reason, for credit must be given to a sound Yeovil defence.

Taken generally, Merthyr had the better of the exchanges, but Yeovil, without two of their regular Southern League players, were always dangerous when they broke away at high speed, and Tabram had his work cut out watching the speedy Foulds. The return of Paddy McIlvenny to Eire provided Harry Lowe with the opportunity to stage a come-back, and he took it in his long stride. He was very impressive, both in distributing judicious passes, using his length of leg expertly to dispossess the Yeovil attackers, and in covering up when Yeovil attacked.

Young Jackson, on Merthyr's left wing, did not have a very happy afternoon. He should not be condemned out of hand for muffing a grand chance in the second half: "sitters" like that are missed up and down the country in all classes of football every Saturday. Many will say that "Shenk" Powell would have scored if given the same chance. That, of course, is anybody's guess. What any player will do at a given time with a given opportunity is problematical. However, the fact undoubtedly remains that Powell has scored from far slimmer chances in the past and there is really no reason for believing that he could not do so again if given the opportunity.

To return to Jackson. He certainly has talent, but now, after being "blooded" with a few Southern League games, it might be wise to let him return to the Welsh League side for a spell. In fairness to him, it should be emphasised that Merthyr's goal was the result of one of his well-taken corner kicks.

Sellick was not kept as busy as Dyke, his opposite number but was quite sound when called into action. Full backs Avery and Phillips did some good things, although not subjected to the same pressure as Yeovil's Hickman and Davies.

The Lowe, Tabram and Richards trio worked well together and provided the forwards with many chances. As for

the forwards their approach work was praiseworthy, but there was lack of understanding when in shooting range.

DETERMINED

The first two minutes favoured Yeovil, who launched determined attacks, and Coffey beat Phillips before passing to Foulds, who was caught off-side. Later Lowe robbed Foulds and sent the ball up field to put Merthyr in a good attacking position. Following up Lowe shot, but Dyke stopped, but could not hold the ball, which rolled loose only for Jarman to fail to connect fully.

Sellick came into the picture when he stopped an awkward dropping shot from Hamilton, and for a period the defenders were kept busy but Merthyr raised the siege and went into action themselves. For seven minutes Stan Davis was off the field with a leg injury.

The sides were obviously well matched, but Merthyr looked set for a goal when a grand passing movement, started by Richards, and continued by Jarman and Lloyd, saw the ball go to McIlvenny. The winger slipped past Davies and got in a shot, but Dyke had it well covered. Later Jarman headed over the bar, and this was followed by Dyke stopping a shot from Lloyd. A short lived Yeovil attack followed and then Merthyr were back on the offensive.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES

Soon after the start of the second half Stan Davies slipped through and passed to Jackson, but the winger shot wide when in a good position. Jackson was not the only Merthyr player to miss a chance, and at least four opportunities went begging in as many minutes.

Yeovil broke away on several occasions, and from one of them Foulds sent in a drive which hit the crossbar, and a few minutes after this Sellick saved well from Hamilton.

Gradually Merthyr regained the initiative and a series of skirmishes took place around the Yeovil goal. Three corners were conceded by the Yeovil defenders, and from one of these JARMAN made no mistake with a grand drive. Yeovil made desperate attempts to equalise, but could not break through the Merthyr defence.

Teams: Merthyr: Sellick; Avery, Phillips; Lowe, Tabram, Richards; McIlvenny, Lloyd Jarman, Davies and Jackson.

Yeovil: Dyke; Hickman and Davies; Keeton, Affleck, Haines; Coffey, Mansley, Foulds, Wright and Hamilton.

Referee: Mr. A. J. Thomas, Cardiff.

DYKE HEROIC AS DEFENCE CRACKED

Paterson, Too; Yeovil Unlucky Not To Take A Point At Colchester

WITH three reserves included in their team, Colchester fully deserved their 2-1 win over Yeovil Town in the Southern League championship tussle and so far remain unbeaten at home, writes our Colchester correspondent. But the first half of the do-or-die effort saw Yeovil the faster and more scientific team.

Headwork in front of goal was particularly neat, but Colchester's bustling tactics broke up several promising raids.

Paterson was worthy of mention in the visitors' defensive tactics and Dyke, bombarded incessantly in the second half when the Yeovil defence went to pieces, put up a magnificent performance to keep the score low.

With Colchester having more of the game in the second half than Yeovil had in the first, it was not surprising that Cutting, leading a raid on the Yeovil goal, should score the winning goal three minutes from the final whistle.

Yet Yeovil were unfortunate not to take a point. There was very little to choose between the teams and the slippery ground did not improve matters.

Cutting got both Colchester's goals, and Foulds Yeovil's.

WON'T HAVE MANY HARDER MATCHES

Dyke Star In A Yeovil Side That Merited Point; Merthyr Slower

By F.D.V.

FOR eighty-seven minutes Yeovil and Merthyr Tydfil battled away without scoring, and, when a draw seemed inevitable, Jarman shot through a crowd of players to give the Welsh side the points. Yeovil played really grand football, with Dyke masterly in goal.

The Town's three reserve players, Haines, Affleck and Coffey, came through a gruelling afternoon with honours, for ground conditions were far from ideal, the mud in places being ankle deep. A game of Rugby had been played there in the morning.

Merthyr had the better of the first half, during which they struck the goal woodwork on three occasions. But for most of the second half Yeovil were attacking, and Foulds was unfortunate when, after beating Tabram, he raced goalwards and shot, only for the ball to hit the upright with Sellick outstretched on the ground.

Affleck "Stayed"

Yeovil will not, I feel certain, have to play a harder game than this one. There were thrills in plenty—and a tinge of cup-tie feeling.

Dave Affleck, veteran though he is, stood up to a gruelling 90 minutes well. Haines at left-half had a grand match, although inclined to wander in the middle. Coffey, at outside-right apart from a bad miss late in the second half, had a good game. Hamilton on the opposite wing did reasonably well. Once, however, with the goal at his mercy he shot wildly over the bar.

Both Hickman and Davis defended well, but Dyke was the outstanding Yeovil player.

For Merthyr, Lowe, originally an inside forward, played a fine game at right half while McIlvenny, as usual, was a source of trouble. The Merthyr team, as I saw them, have certainly lost much of last season's skill, and certainly their speed. Neither side deserved to take both points.

Weston Lose 3-0

YEOVIL HAD GOOD DEPUTY FOR BRYANT

ERIC Bryant, the Yeovil leader in whom Bristol City are showing interest, was not included in the Yeovil team which beat Weston 3-0 in a "friendly" at Locking-road.

In his place, the visitors gave a chance to 18-years-old Lionel Phillips, who has been showing outstanding form with the Reserves.

Phillips signalled his debut with two first-half goals, Wright getting a third soon after the resumption.

Yeovil gave a polished display. They served up grand open football and their thrustful attack frequently bewildered the Weston defence with the speed and accuracy of its combination.

By comparison, Weston were slow and their attack ragged, but they had more of the game after Yeovil had lost left-back Davis with an eye injury early in the second half. They pressed repeatedly in the closing stages without being able to pierce a confident defence that covered extremely well.

Dyke, the Yeovil goalkeeper, made a spectacular save from a penalty and Cooper, his opposite number, also distinguished himself with several brilliant clearances.

Weston fought gallantly, but Yeovil gave them a lesson in the finer arts of the game, and generally emphasised the gap between Southern League and Western League standards.

It is hoped that a return will be arranged at Yeovil later in the season.