

Peacocks so unlucky in Huish Park clash

Yeovil Town 0, Taunton Town 0

TAUNTON can consider themselves very unlucky not to have won Saturday's FA Cup second qualifying round tie at Huish Park. They stunned their hosts with some excellent football and looked by far the better side (writes Richard Briggs).

When the Peacocks did have to defend, they closed their hosts down very quickly and stopped them playing the brand of flowing football for which they have become renowned since the arrival of Graham Roberts as manager.

Backed by several hundred fans in the crowd of 3,303, Taunton made their intentions plain as early as the third minute. Yeovil keeper Tony Pennock had to palm a free-kick from Tiv Lowe behind — and from the resulting corner kick, Rob Cousins cleared off the line in a melee.

Yeovil's best opening of the first half came in the 37th minute when both Chris Moors and Warren Patmore failed to bury the ball from excellent positions.

But right on the interval, Taunton's busy Mark Cutler sent an overhead effort off a post following a cross from Darren Cann.

Yeovil's Chris White headed on to the roof of the net in the 75th minute, but had Taunton lost it would have been an injustice.

Lowe made an excellent display on the ground where he served as a player and caretaker manager, and there was a nice gesture before kick-off when Nigel Jarvis and Yeovil's Tony Pounder shook hands. They were Yeovil players together in the mid-80s before Jarvis joined Torquay United and Pounder found fame with Bristol Rovers.

The most bizarre moment on Saturday came in the 78th minute when Roberts dashed from the bench to retrieve the ball — only to trip Mark Loram in the process. Loram appeared to hit the boundary wall, and Taunton were furious. Swift action by referee Wendy Toms prevented the situation getting out of hand.

Taunton: Coombe, Lowe, Fortt (Thaws, 76), Cann, Ewens, Fowler, Jarvis, Cutler (Underhay, 84), Loram, Palfrey, Down. Sub: Crook.



□ TAUNTON'S Ian Down is sandwiched by Yeovil players Mickey Engwell (left) and Kevin Braybrook during Saturday's goal-less FA Cup game at Huish Park.

SOMERSET COUNTY GAZETTE, OCTOBER 4, 1996

● LORAM GRABS TWO GOALS IN TWO MINUTES, BUT YEovil EMERGE VICTORIOUS

Taunton's Cup dream dies at packed Drive

Taunton Town 3, Yeovil Town 5

TAUNTON Town went out of the FA Cup on Monday, but not without a tremendous battle against Wordsworth Drive visitors Yeovil Town.

The Glovers, currently top of the ICIS premier division — two leagues above Taunton's in the soccer pyramid — won this second qualifying round replay 5-3.

But the South Somerset side needed to be at their best to secure a trip to Tiverton Town in the next round.

Taunton battled back from 2-0 down to lead 3-2. But Yeovil dug in to grab three goals in the final 20 minutes and break the hearts of home fans in the crowd of 2,257, which included spies from Exeter City.

Sadly crowd trouble at the end of match marred the evening. Not even the presence of Yeovil's own stewards and police could prevent fighting which has become all too regular at FA Cup ties involving the Glovers in recent years.

The game featured more commitment and determination than Saturday's first encounter. An indication was that there were two bookings, and numerous free-kicks, inside the first ten minutes. But Poole referee Wendy Toms had a good game, her only mistake coming when she missed a blatant foul on Taunton's Ben Rowe which led to Yeovil's second goal.

Taunton played down the slope in the first half, but Yeovil controlled the opening stages. Jerry Gill was unlucky with a rising rocket which whistled just over.

But Yeovil keeper Tony Pennock was lucky not to be sent off in the tenth minute when he handled

Report by RICHARD BRIGGS

a Mark Loram shot outside the area. Pennock escaped with a booking.

Pennock gathered a Mark Cutler shot at the second attempt and Gill sent a six-yard header inches over before Yeovil moved in front after 27 minutes.

The ball found its way to Dean Birkby following a Mickey Engwell free-kick — and the former Bath City striker drove into the net, despite a brave attempt to save by Mark Coombe.

Coombe did well to claim an Engwell bullet on the line before Yeovil went two up in controversial fashion in the 33rd minute. Gill floored Rowe before getting in the cross which Paul Turner buried.

Taunton hit back, and Pennock had to take a Damon Palfrey free-kick and a low drive from Derek Fowler on his line. But the ex-Hereford United custodian could do nothing to stop Cutler shooting home after a slip in defence in the 44th minute.

And it could have been 2-2 at the break, Cutler somehow firing over the face of goal after a pass from Ian Down when it seemed easier to score.

Birkby and Warren Patmore went close for Yeovil before Loram fired narrowly over on the hour.

But within four minutes, the match had been turned on its head as the Peacocks found themselves in front.

Loram levelled in the 62nd minute with a low

shot following a free-kick for handball, and controlled superbly two minutes later before banging in again past a stunned defence.

Yeovil sent on tricky winger Tony Pounder in the 69th minute — and within seconds he provided a great cross for Patmore to net with a flying header.

Palfrey shot over from long range, but Yeovil's experience began to tell. They went 4-3 up in the 74th minute when Patmore got on the end of a long free-kick from Pennock. And they should have struck again in the 85th minute, only for Coombe to deny Gill with a superb point-blank save.

But Yeovil did score again in injury time, Gill crashing in a header from a corner. There was still time for Taunton's Nigel Jarvis to fire wide from close-range — but come the final whistle, Yeovil were worthy winners.

Taunton: Coombe, Lowe (Underhay, 74), Rowe (Thaws, 45), Cann, Ewens, Fowler, Jarvis, Cutler, Loram, Palfrey, Down. Sub: Crook.