

Date: 12 April 1993
Opposition: Manchester City
Competition: League

Guardian

12 April 1993

the guardian

Rush pops up to spoil Reid's view of Europe

PETER REID thinks Manchester City can still win a place in Europe. It is technically possible but would require a set of circumstances so unlikely as to make the very notion far-fetched.

So the raison d'etre for this match was bank holiday entertainment, and good value it was despite City losing their front-runners Sheron and White towards the end of the first half.

By then City were ahead through a tremendous header from Flitcroft whose pudding-basin haircut was visible above a crowd of defenders as he met Holden's 11th-minute corner from the left. His powerful header left James rooted and a large question over the visitors' marking.

Liverpool found no such latitude in the City defence, and Curle, Vonk and Phelan used their exceptional pace to keep Rush, Barnes and Thomas under wraps for most of the first half.

Rosenthal was preferred to McManaman as Rush's striking partner but his good early cross, which found Whelan unmarked, ended with a miscued volley. Barnes was no more successful with a free-kick from 22 yards. His magic is in short supply these days and his attempt to swerve the ball into a top corner turned into an easy save for Coton.

City had twice the possession and four times the chances but the loss of Sheron and White, coupled with a back problem afflicting a hobbling Quinn, who was hurt in the opening minutes and was later taken to a nursing home for observation, restricted City's chances of increasing their lead.

A jaded-looking Liverpool seemed to have little to offer when suddenly Burrows broke down the left from the half-way line. He beat the City substitute Quigley and raced on to send in a low cross which gave Rush, at the far post, the simplest tap-in for the equaliser in the 66th minute.

The goal lifted Liverpool and put the City supporters in the crowd of 28,098 in a state of some anxiety. But the revival was brief and by the end it was City who were looking more keenly for a winner but hardly on their way to Europe.

Manchester City: Coton; Ranson, Phelan, Reid, Curle, Vonk, White (Quigley, 38min), Sheron (Ingebrigtsen, 29), Quinn, Flitcroft, Holden.

Liverpool: James; Jones, Burrows, Nicol, Wright, Whelan, Rosenthal (Marsh, 56), Hutchison, Rush, Barnes, Walters.

Referee: M Reed (Birmingham).