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THE TIMES

Ipswich foiled in extra time

Liverpool 3 Ipswich Town 2 (after extra time)

LIVERPOOL, sustained by the resolve that has been their greatest ally during a difficult season, came from behind in extra time at Anfield last night to sustain their interest in this season's FA Cup competition.

For long periods during a memorable fifth-round re-play, Ipswich Town's neater football and greater composure seemed likely to be the decisive factors. They performed with pride and no little skill but left a beaten side, no doubt confused by the manner of their downfall.

Ipswich have visited Anfield on 30 occasions without recording a victory. They will never come closer than last night. Having taken the tie into extra time with a late, but fully deserved equaliser, the second division side then moved in front, only for its discipline to desert it when it mattered most.

Liverpool's performance had been so threadbare that Dozzell's simple goal in the 96th minute seemed that it might finish them off. Instead, it served only to instill a greater sense of urgency in the home side.

Ipswich euphoria evaporated in the 98th minute when Molby drove in the sweetest of free kicks from 19 yards. No more than 90 seconds later, McManaman, having exchanged neat passes with Rosenthal, clipped home the final goal of a memorable evening from an acute angle. Liverpool are now at home to Aston Villa in the quarter-final.

Possibly aggrieved at their failure to settle the issue when the sides met at Portman Road ten days earlier, Ipswich produced some stirring football during an opening half which they dominated. Quicker to the loose ball and more purposeful when in possession, they cut swathes through the Liverpool rearguard and, but for Nicol, who was a model of assurance, the pressure would certainly have been translated into a goal or possibly goals. As early as the sixth minute, Grobbelaar was required to spring to his side's rescue when he turned aside a firm drive, by Stockwell, who had an outstanding match. Not until the 23rd minute did Liverpool mount a threat. Houghton's weighted pass released Marsh, but he sacrificed accuracy for power and Forrest was able to palm the ball away.

Ipswich were to go in at half-time not only with nothing to show for their efforts, but having conceded a goal two minutes into injury time. Walters, having had one corner blocked, was allowed to retrieve the ball and deliver a cross, which the unmarked Houghton swept home, after Thompson had only partially cleared. But Ipswich refused to panic, continued to attack and continued to impress. John Lyall, their manager, brought on the experienced Goddard after 65 minutes in place of Palmer and saw the newcomer miss a chance almost immediately. However, justice was done in the 82nd minute, when Johnson stole in unannounced at the far post to head in a Whitton cross to prolong the entertainment.

LIVERPOOL: B Grobbelaar; R Jones, S Harkness (sub: I Kozma), S Nicol, M Wright, M Marsh, D Saunders, R Houghton, M Walters (sub: R Rosenthal), J Molby, S McManaman.

IPSWICH TOWN: C Forrest; G Johnson, N Thompson, M Stockwell, J Wark (sub: R Zondervan), D Linighan, S Milton, S Palmer (sub: P Goddard), S Whitton, J Dozzell, C Kiwomya.

Referee: A Buksh.

the guardian

McManaman finds something extra

JUST as Ipswich seemed to have prised Liverpool out of a quarter-final place, the Anfield hoodoo struck them in the shape of two goals within two minutes in the first half of extra-time.

The writing was always on the wall. Liverpool have not lost an FA Cup replay at Anfield in more than 20 years, and Ipswich have never won there. But when the Second Division side equalised with nine minutes of the 90 remaining, and then went ahead in the first period of extra-time, it looked as though the statistics would have to be rewritten.

The home side knew they were in a match after only five minutes when the 34-year-old Ipswich centre-back John Wark, once Liverpool's leading goalscorer, played a high free-kick down the line to Whitton, whose header was touched on for Dozzell to drive a shot at Grobbelaar, who did well to punch it away.

Slowly but surely Graeme Souness's men began to reduce Ipswich's options and increase the pressure, which was rewarded two minutes into first-half injury time when Walters returned a cross to Houghton, who hammered a low left-foot shot into the net.

The visitors seemed to have lost their way. 'Is Ipswich in Norfolk or Suffolk?' asked someone in the crowd. In trouble, seemed the appropriate answer at that stage. But with 15 minutes left the Second Division side, who had not lost in 17 games, staged a revival.

Suddenly their shots were flying everywhere; everywhere, initially, but in the net. At least their efforts woke up Grobbelaar to the danger. He made a superb save to tip a 30-yard shot from Milton over the bar, but seconds later he was left flat-footed as Whitton, again collecting a ball from Wark, placed the perfect cross for the full-back Johnson to head in at the near post and force the tie into extra-time. 'In the second half they were better than us,' admitted Souness, and despite being granted six full minutes of injury time his side were unable to pull off one of their famous last-minute winners.

Ipswich started off extra-time the better side, their growing confidence rewarded when they took the lead after six minutes. The stocky Stockwell put Dozzell through, and the Ipswich striker ran into a gap between Liverpool's central defenders. His first shot was blocked by Grobbelaar but the striker tucked away the rebound as calm as you like.

The Ipswich euphoria lasted only three minutes and poor Stockwell's elation was even shorter-lived when he was penalised for a challenge on Saunders on the very edge of the penalty area. Molby, only just recovered from a knee injury, likes these situations and thundered his free-kick into the roof of the net.

Two minutes later the young McManaman forced new energy into weary limbs and made ground on the right to collect a pass from Rosenthal. He took the ball deep and shot with deadly accuracy from an acute angle. There were more than 15 minutes left, but that strike was good enough to settle the tie.

Liverpool: Grobbelaar; Jones, Harkness (Kozma, 98min), Nicol, Wright, Marsh, Saunders, Houghton, Walters (Rosenthal, 81), Molby, McManaman.

Ipswich: Forrest; Johnson, Thompson, Stockwell, Wark (Zondervan, 117), Linighan, Milton, Palmer (Goddard, 65), Whitton, Dozzell, Kiwomya.

Referee: A Buksh (London).

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BRITISH SOCCER WEEK

Brave Ipswich

Liverpool edged brave Ipswich Town out of the FA Cup by the odd goal in five in a thriller that saw the lower division side come so close to collecting their first ever victory at Anfield.

The match appeared to be meandering towards the final whistle after a first-half goal in injury time which had apparently killed off Ipswich's gallant challenge and put Liverpool 1-0 in front.

The goal came unexpectedly when Houghton swept home a shot from the edge of the area after Ipswich had only half cleared a Mark Walters corner.

But Gavin Johnson equalised for the second division side with a spectacular header that saw the match burst memorably to life and sent it into extra time.

The home fans were stunned and the travelling supporters from East Anglia went wild with delight in the 81st minute when Steve Whitton crossed deep to the far post from the right and Johnson powered a header firmly into the roof of the net.

Five minutes into extra time, Ipswich took the lead, Mick Stockwell threading the ball through to Jason Dozzell who saw his first shot blocked by Bruce Grobbelaar's out-stretched boot but managed to force home the rebound.

But injury hit Liverpool were not to be denied and three minutes later, after Stockwell fouled Dean Saunders on the edge of the box, Jan Molby stepped up to curl a superb free kick into the top corner of the Ipswich net.

Two minutes later, substitute Ronnie Rosenthal's through ball found Steve McManaman racing through the inside right channel to loft a delicate chip over falling keeper Craig Forrest and into the net.

Ipswich never lost heart and carried on plugging away for the equaliser, but the biggest cheer for the rest of the match came a few minutes from the end when Ipswich's ex-Anfield star John Wark limped out of the fray with an injury after a typically heroic performance.

Graeme Souness said he was "delighted" to see his side get through against Ipswich after fielding a side featuring four injured players who he did not think would last 90 minutes never mind extra-time.

And in a tribute to the second division team, he forecast: "If they play like that till the end of the season they will be in the first division."

Said Souness: "We started the game with four people we didn't think would finish the game but they worked very hard and showed a lot of grit and determination and that's got us through. In the second half Ipswich were better than us but in extra time we dug deep. Ipswich played very well. They were full of running and determination, but in cup competitions someone has to win and someone has to lose."

Danish international midfielder Jan Molby, who scored a spectacular free-kick said: "It was just outside the box and although they put seven men in the wall I thought it was going to go in. We've a lot of experienced players and we played well in extra-time."