

Never-say-die grit
leads to victory.
Words by
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Backs-to-the-wall O's return with fire

Leyton Orient 3, Reading 2

LLEYTON ORIENT twice came from behind in this bottom-of-the-table match on Friday night to beat a struggling Reading side. The value of the win can be judged by the fact that Orient were the only side in the bottom ten of the Third Division to gain any points last weekend.

For only the second time this season Orient managed to score more than two goals in a match. Yet in the first session it seemed that goals would only come if the Reading defenders forgot their way on to the pitch for the second half.

Orient paraded their former Charlton and Crystal Palace winger, Eddie Werge, on the right wing. Werge showed plenty of determination in his running and once went near to scoring. Reading's no-nonsense defence for the most part had little trouble in dealing with Orient's early attacks.

Terry Price again played his heart out as if Orient's salvation was his own personal problem.

At the other end Orient looked extremely suspect to the vigorous breaks of much-travelled leader Pat Terry and the more artisan efforts of former Orient schemer Ron Foster.

Only 11 minutes had elapsed before Orient were trailing. Terry Bradbury slipped on turning and Terry was through. As Ron Willis advanced Terry coolly chipped over his head into the vacant goal.

The second session was all action. Aggressive Reading skipper Colin Meldrum first accidentally kicked George O'Brien in the head, then shoved down Werge as the winger was breaking clear.

This began the revival. Dave Metchick ran over the ball, big Cliff Holton chipped and Price ran in to head past Dixon.

In two minutes Reading went ahead again. A free-kick taken by Alan Scarrott went to an unmarked Thornhill, who shot past an unsuspected Orient with a series of excellent saves from the goal-hungry Reading forwards.

Reading brought on their substitute Faulkes, a full-back, when Ron Foster went off. Faulkes, however, joined the attack and did not, as expected, operate at the rear. Orient soon sent their 4,025 supporters delirious. First Holton headed a Metchick corner powerfully past Dixon. Then he rammed home a 25-yard free-kick which Dixon had covered, but let slip, for Orient to take the lead.

From this point they defended manfully and Paul Went, Micky Jones and Dave Forsyth all played well in the closing stages.

Scouts from several clubs were at the game watching Went. At times arrogant in his approach, Went still showed enough for a £20,000 rating to go on his head. They'll be back to see him again.



(214)
Terry Price jumps with glee after heading Orient's first equaliser against Reading at Brisbane-road on Friday night. Other Orient players throw up their arms with delight.



(215)
Cliff Holton soars high above keeper Dixon to score the first of his two goals and put Orient on the path to their first win in six weeks.