

Match Review

Last Saturday's games added two wins, a draw and a loss to our statistics, but of these the draw was certainly the most important inasmuch that it gained our first away League point of the season.

The opening of a "credit account" in the away column is always a pleasing feature of any campaign, and although we had to wait until our third match on opposing soil before we achieved our objective, it was not only a well-deserved success but also one which could have been even more satisfactory.

The Newcastle side has not had a very promising start to 1971-72, and manager Joe Harvey was off on a "scouting mission" with a view to strengthening his squad whilst our match was taking place at St. James's Park.

The Magpies' current line-up was happy when they opened the score, but we quickly retaliated to equalise just over a minute later. Another for the Hammers before half-time really shook the homesters, and there were some gloomy faces among the Tyne-side officials during the interval.

We could have more-or-less tied it up in the first quarter-hour of the second half, but a couple of missed chances and good 'keeping prevented us consolidating what would surely have been a winning lead. The opposition regained its heart, scored a courageous equaliser — and then held on grimly to the end.

So we had to be content with "half a loaf," but although regretting that we had not earned our full reward it was a happy party that returned South that evening.

Press Comment

NEVER AS CONFIDENT

Newcastle never looked as confident as West Ham. That the Hammers dropped a point will always remain a mystery.

TONY HARDISTY, *Sunday Express*

Despite an inspired Robson, West Ham threw away a point by failing to make the most of Newcastle's weaknesses.

JACKIE MILBURN, *News of the World*

Substitute Cassidy scored the equaliser in the face of continued West Ham dazzle, and only they and goalkeeper McFaul will know how they didn't stride home.

JOE CUMMINGS, *Sunday Mirror*

Newcastle were so completely out of touch that the game looked like becoming a walk-over. Goalkeeper McFaul somehow kept them in with a chance.

LEN SHACKLETON, *The People*

The Newcastle defenders rarely produced the answer to dealing with the threat of the lively bursts from the West Ham trio of strikers.

BOB WOOD, *Sunday Telegraph*

The lack of aggressive approach which has often let down West Ham's talented players again allowed Newcastle back into the game. West Ham should clearly benefit from the refs' crack-down on rough play.

Daily Mail

The Londoners might well have kicked themselves all the way home for not picking up two easy points, because for a full hour they hounded Newcastle.

BOB CASS, *The Sun*

Any side who comes up here is usually grateful to go away with a draw; but we're annoyed at letting it slip. We should have won easily.

BRYAN ROBSON