

FOOTBALL NOTES.

LUTON'S THRILLING CUP-TIE STRUGGLE.

(By CRUSADER.)

At Luton. Result:—

LUTON TOWN	1
COVENTRY CITY	2

Teams:—

LUTON TOWN.

Summers

Elvey,	Dunn	
Urwin,	Rutherford,	Parker.
Hoar,	Roe,	Simms, Dodd, Bookman.

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Sheldon, Jones, Walker, Wynn, Dougall,
Fenwick, Hanney, Robinson,
Chaplin, Roberts,
Lindon.

COVENTRY CITY.

Referee: A. L. Grinstead, East Ham.

It was a glorious struggle, and I am bold enough to say that the Town deserved to win. Comparing the periods in which the sides were pressing, and the quality of the goals scored, I think the Town were just about a goal better than the other side. They did not get that goal, hence they will go to Coventry on Thursday to try conclusions again. They will go with better knowledge, for on Saturday they were up against an entirely unknown quantity, but now they will face the foe with a pretty full knowledge of the style of play and the character of the men from the football standpoint. I think they ought to do better on Thursday, and if they could put up such a show for the whole of the game as they did for forty minutes of the second half, they will assuredly succeed.

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Coventry are a typical Second Division team. There was not a whit to choose between the players on Saturday from the point of conduct, naturally attributable to the excitement, for the twenty-two were at very high tension, and only a minority kept their heads. There was too much roughness altogether, and I came to the conclusion in the first half that the burly halves of the visitors had mastered the Luton forwards. When the Luton men played with similar abandon in the second half there was only one team in it. It was a repetition of the pressure we saw when Norwich came—almost ceaseless struggle between the Coventry defence and the Luton forwards, and yet the shooting from anything like decent range was almost entirely absent. Without doubt, the best shot of the game was that from George Dodd, which struck the upright in the first half. It was a wonderful effort, and never was there one which better deserved a goal. Yet I must not forget the equalising shot of Parker's. It was a grand goal, a scorer all the way, for it struck the underside of the bar and went into the back of the net, Lindon being helpless.

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The weather was fine for the opening stages, but subsequently changed, and in the middle of the first half there was a downpour which drenched the players to the skin, and chilled them to the bone. They stuck to their work wonderfully well, however, and in the second half the home men appeared in better condition than in the first half. They played better, anyway. The ground was churned up, and was in frightful condition before half-time, and not a clean jersey or pair of knickers was to be seen. At the Kenilworth-road end the

goal-mouth was in a shocking state, and all things considered, the players kept their feet wonderfully well. It is a pity they did not keep their heads better.



Coventry were first out, wearing light blue jerseys similar to those the Town wore in the old days, and they were well received by a large body of Coventry supporters. Elvey and his men got a tremendous greeting, and it was renewed as a happy augury when Dick won the toss. Alas! the hopes of the crowd were speedily shaken. Coventry played a lively game from the start, and they showed a rare appreciation of the conditions, and a keen desire for goal-finding, for they were shooting quickly and often, and half-a-dozen shots went close. The Town were not idle, but appeared slow and bothered by the conditions, and the forwards were very easily knocked off the ball by the weighty Coventry halves, but Dodd once got away and struck the post with a beauty.



It was no surprise when Coventry scored, and the goal came about in this way. The home defence got in a tangle, and Summers ran out to smother an attack. He got to the ball first and fell on it, but as he rolled over he received a severe kick on the head, and the ball elipped from under him for Jones to shoot into the net. Summers required attention from Billy Lawson, but he was quite dazed when he resumed. Luton men went all out for an equaliser, and from a corner there was a scrimmage in the Coventry goal. Lindon caught a shot, but was charged by Simma, and appeared to be well over the line, but he fell and pushed the leather round the post. The referee ignored the frantic appeals of the Luton men, but from our place in the Press box Lindon appeared well over the line.



Came another disappointment. Walker got possession about fifteen yards out of goal, and shooting suddenly, beat Summers again, the keeper attempting to push the ball away, but quite missing it. Still Coventry maintained the upper hand, and Sheldon had a great chance after clever individual work, but Summers was safe and eyed finely at close

quarters. Several corners fell to Luton just before the interval, but the teams retired for a breather with the score:—

Coventry City	2
Luton Town	0

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The game had only been restarted four minutes when Luton's first goal came. The spade work was done by Dodd and Simms, who brought the ball from midfield, and Simms sent it forward. Roe tried to reach it, but Sid Hoar came tearing in and drove it across goal at a great pace. Robinson rushed up to intercept, and he lunged at the ball only to see it fly past Lindon into the net. The excitement was intense, and Luton fairly overwhelmed the visitors now. Loud appeals were made for a penalty, but after consultation with the linesman the referee threw down the ball. Shortly afterwards there was another case of handling just on the penalty area, but the referee gave a free kick from the wrong side of the mark. Dodd shot, but Chaplin kicked away from off the goal line.

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Such pressure had to tell, however, and after 25 minutes of the half had gone, Lindon caught the ball, and eluding Simms and Roe ran several steps. He was penalised, and after some trouble a free kick was taken close in. The ball rebounded from the Coventry players, who packed the goal, and came to Parker. That player shot hard and carefully, and the ball struck the underside of the bar and went into the net.

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Luton pressed fiercely after this, and the Coventry players seldom crossed the half-way line, but corner after corner gave no fruits, and towards the close the Coventry players, by kicking into touch and dallying, managed to keep their goal clear of danger, and the end came with the score as stated above.

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The attendance was much lower than anticipated, and only 10,054 paid for admission, the gate receipts being £632 17s. 10d. A large number came from Coventry, but from the villages and townships around Luton many failed to turn up because of the weather. Immediately after the game arrangements were made for the replay at Coventry on Thursday.

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Summers has been blamed for both goals, but if the critics had known his condition they would have been slower to do so. When the first goal was scored he was kicked on the head, and he had to receive attention at the interval, while after the game he collapsed while in the bath, and Dr. Ross had again to attend to him before he was taken home. Elvey and Dunn gave of their best after the goals had been scored against them, but the halves did not seem at all happy, as a line, until the second half. Parker was the hero, and I am glad he scored, for he has had many near tries, and is one of the finest shots in the team. He revelled in the mud, and in the second half he was brilliant. The forwards were not happy. The two dangerous men were Hoar and Dodd, but when Bookman was fed in the way he should be he was too fast for his opponents, but the conditions were against him. Dodd cannot be left out of the side on Saturday's form, for he was probably the best forward on the field, with Sheldon and Hoar very close for second honours, but Roe played a quiet and extremely useful game.

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Of the visitors, I liked Chaplin at back, Hanney at half, and Sheldon and Walker, forwards.

It was a great disappointment to the Town supporters that a win was not registered, but given decent conditions I think they will do better on Thursday, and shall not be surprised if they win. Of the 32 ties, four were postponed owing to the weather, all these being in the north-east.