

# LEADERS LUCKY.

## Luton Town's Strong Fight at Swindon.

(By "CRUSADER").

Luton Town suffered an expected defeat at Swindon on Saturday, but on the run of the play they should have been able to share points at least, and it was largely owing to the weak marksmanship that they failed to inflict upon Swindon the first home defeat of the season.

The illness of Woods and Millar brought in Fraser and Reid, Panther going to inside right in place of Woods, and Reid resuming at centre-forward.

It was a good game, considering the state of the ground, and rarely was the referee required to intervene for rough or dirty tactics.

The Town had the better of the first half, there being much better team combination in their efforts, and an interesting aspect of the play was the part of the left wing in these attacks, mainly due to the clever feeding by Fraser, who tackled well and made good use of the ball.

### GOOD PACKERS.

Pointon and Clark put over good centres, and the latter made several openings for Agnew, but the home defenders packed well, and Bourne had not a lot of close quarters work.

Dickinson was hurt when tackling Reid, and though he soon returned, he was not sound enough to continue in his right place, and went to outside right, with Furness playing back, and Eddleston at half. Reid went very close with hot shots, and Rennie was also persistent, while Bourne made a wonderful save from Pointon. Luton forced many corners, but the better stature of the home defenders enabled them to get the ball away.

At the other end, Swindon relied chiefly on the speed of the wing men and Morris, but the latter was the only player to come near scoring. He was closely watched, however, and Graham and Till usually mastered him, both playing fine football. Once Denyer had a rare chance, but shot wide, and then Morris got right through, but Harper's timely advance compelled him to shoot wide. On a second occasion, Harper cleverly saved a header from the centre-forward.

Luton should have led at the interval, but the teams crossed over with the score sheet blank.

### SWINDON SCORE.

Immediately on resuming, Swindon forced the pace, and won a corner on the right. This brought a series of fierce tussles in the Luton goal-mouth, and time after time the ball was sent out. However, Denyer eventually got possession and centred for MORRIS to open the score from close in, Harper being helpless to avert the goal.

It was some little time before Luton opened out, and then they had the home defence in sore straits. Bourne made some capital saves, but in a very warm period of nearly fifteen minutes, the Luton team were right on top, and there were prolonged scrimmages in the home goal area, but none could put the ball through. Pointon missed one easy chance of equalising, Weston got the ball away from under the bar, with Bourne out of position, and two or three times the Town inside forwards had the ball practically on the goal line, but could not apply the finishing touch.

The greasy ball and the state of the ground probably had a lot to do with these failures, but there were enough chances to have won the match.

Midway through the half, Swindon scored again, but it was a goal that should never have been recorded. Morris ran beyond the Luton backs, and waited for the ball. It came, and the Town defenders stood appealing for an undoubted case of offside, and even Morris hesitated, but the referee made no sign, and the Swindon centre-forward sent the ball across the goal-mouth. THOM, who was also beyond the Luton backs, simply had to tap the ball past Harper.

The play after this was neither so keen nor so interesting, and although both sides made good efforts, the defences were superior to all demands, and the game ended in favour of the League leaders.

It was a very lucky win, and the home players and supporters were willing to admit it. The fault that deprived the Town of the reward of much fine play, was the weakness of the inside forwards in front of goal. Time after time the team moved with splendid spirit and precision, but when the critical moment arrived, the player in possession either ran the ball too far or hesitated, and the home defenders promptly closed in and spoiled him.

# **FORWARD PLAY.**

Pointon and Clark did good work on the wings, the latter especially, and centres were invariably well placed. The inside men, if not brilliant, worked with great courage and spirit, and it was a pity they failed in the vital moments. Agnew and Panther were often conspicuous for hard work and unselfish play, but Reid was well held, and when he got in a shot he had no luck. The Town centre-forward still felt something of muscle strain.

Fraser made a most successful debut, and it is not saying too much to credit him with being the best half on view for all-round display. His tackling was good, and his plying of the forwards after he had made ground, won much approval. Rennie was also in far better form than in recent matches, and excelled in constructive work, while he bothered Morris all the time. Black was clever in defence, but not up to his usual standard, and again left Thom with a big space.

Graham and Till put up a grand game, and one of the best features of the match was the spirited tussle that took place between Morris and one or other of the Town backs from time to time. They carried off the honours. Harper also played finely in goal, and could not be blamed in any way for the defeat.

For the home side, Bourne was a fine goalkeeper, Weston played solidly at back, and Bew at half, while in the forward line Morris and Thom were the pick.

There were 7,567 spectators, and the receipts £436 19s. 6d.

**SWINDON.** — Bourne; Dickinson, Weston; Furness, Bew, Johnson (S.); Denyer, Eddleston, Morris, Petrie, Thom.

**LUTON.** — Harper; Graham, Till; Black, Rennie, Fraser; Pointon, Panther, Reid, Agnew, Clark.

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