

# CHECKED BY COVENTRY CITY.

## LUTON DROP A POINT.

### Stern Struggle in Sporting Spirit.

By *Crusader.*

IT was a fine game we saw on Saturday, and though LUTON TOWN failed to win, and so dropped a point at home, everybody was satisfied that the game was one of the best seen on the ground for a long time. There was mutual respect of the ability of the opposition, and probably this was too prominent on the part of the Town, who were disposed to anxiety whenever Coventry got on the move. The result of this was that the visitors had the better of the game, but once the ice was broken, even though it meant arrears, the Town came back to their best, and if they had driven home their attacks with the determination shown in previous games, both points would have been theirs. Points must be dropped sometimes, and though we would have preferred the experience anywhere else, the Town remained unbeaten, and still at the head of the table, and they alone of the Southern Section clubs are in that happy position.

#### ABBOTT'S LIGHT TASK.

Coventry began with decided views as to their job, and they worked to the principle that the best defence was attack, and with the backs and halves never hesitant in the way they got rid of the ball when danger threatened, and the forwards eager for an assault on the Town goal, they held the advantage of the first half. There was no score before the interval, but the play was good enough. For long stretches the City forwards attacked, and often got past everybody but Abbott, and yet the Town goalkeeper had a comparatively light task. The ball was often swung across the goal, chiefly by Henderson, and goals often appeared probable, but the City's inside forwards were well covered, and seldom got in a shot. Indeed, the best scoring effort was probably made by Dinsdale when he headed on to the bar from a corner kick, the ball going behind. The best ground shot was put in by Widdowson on the stroke of half-time, a splendid drive from the edge of the penalty area on the left wing, but Abbott had the angle covered, and was able to turn the ball behind. The City forwards showed good understanding, and used the wide pass to the wings with excellent results, and as Henderson was wise enough to hug the touch-line, he often had a clear field for his fast sprints, and usually wound up with a well-placed centre.

#### GOOD IN PARTS.

The Town did good work in spasms, and though the thrills in the vicinity of Allen were fewer, there was more tang in them, and the inside forwards might well have "bust the net" had they been on shooting form. They were not nearly so well on the mark as usual, however, and when the band played again they were still waiting for a goal.

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|----------------|---|
| LUTON .....    | 0 |
| COVENTRY ..... | 0 |

This came five minutes after the restart. Henderson in a hurry had been stopped, but the City halves were usually in handy position behind their forwards, and I think it was Dinsdale who suddenly swept the ball across the field, slantwise towards goal. TOWNSEND had closed up, and although Black got at him the odds were on the man in possession, and he was able to get in a kick that sent the ball well away from Abbott, and it entered the net.

#### RENNIE'S EQUALISER.

The joy of the City was short-lived. The Town at once rushed to the attack, and after a brief repulse they came again on the right, Black, Daly and Yardley all having a part in the play, but it was the last-named who did the chief bit, and after getting past two opponents he slipped the ball forward to Rennie. Dinsdale tried to stop the centre-forward unfairly, and the referee was on the point of using his whistle when RENNIE avoided the ugly tackle, and with a beautiful drive had Allen beaten all ends up.

From this point the Town were the superior side, and on the chances should have won, but the City defended well, though luckily at times. Allen was in fine form, and had many hot shots to deal with, but he survived the ordeal, and the end came without further score.

#### BURDEN OF THEIR RECORD.

It appeared to most of us that the Town were suffering from the burden of their very fine record. They were so fearful of losing it that they nearly gave it away. They proved in the last half-hour that they were a better side, and that they could stay the course better, but it was not until the danger had become real that they gave of their best. Coventry rose to the occasion splendidly, and have got a well-balanced side, but if the Town had been on a normal pulse I feel sure both points would have remained at Luton. Had they opened up in the way they went about their job after being a goal down, the City would have been defeated. The way of the champion is to play his best all the time and not to worry about the other fellow, and I hope that will be the case at Watford.

#### THE PLAYERS.

Abbott had very little serious work, though the proximity of the play was too close to ensure his comfort. Kingham again gave a rattling good show, and Richards, though often beaten by the sprinting qualities of Henderson, got through a lot of good work. The co-operation between him and Millar was not good enough until the second half, the half-back leaving too much space for Henderson, but after the change of ends Robert was a better policeman, and had the better of the duels, though Henderson could never be overtaken when he got clear. Fulton played a hard, dogged game, and little was seen of Starsmore, the City's new leader from Kettering, and Black thoughtful and constructive.

The attack did not get good support until after the change of ends, and was not well together. Rennie did not get many chances, and Woods was not so successful as usual, but Yardley gave a better display of forcing tactics, though the combination with Daly was moderate. Bedford was most prominent in the

second half, when he played with much more confidence, and his tricks and centres harassed the City defence a great deal.

The City put up the best show opponents have given at Luton, and played well enough to justify the hopes of their supporters that they will make a bold bid for promotion. There are a few shaky spots, but they have shown a tendency to spend money on repairs if necessary, and I should not be surprised to see them get new stuff in defence and attack. They have the nucleus of a good side. Allen, Crown, Dinsdale, Henderson, Kirton and Widdowson were their best players.

There were 12,500 spectators present.

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|---------------------|--------|
| LUTON TOWN .....    | 1 goal |
| COVENTRY CITY ..... | 1 goal |

LUTON TOWN. — Abbott; Kingham, Richards; Black, Fulton, Millar; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.

COVENTRY CITY.—Allen; Crown, Plunkett; Maskell, Dinsdale, Bell; Henderson, Kirton, Starsmore, Widdowson, Townsend.  
Referee: R. G. Rudd, London.