

ANOTHER WIN AT HOME.

LUTON TOWN SCORE THE SOLITARY GOAL.

By Crusader.

In many respects, LUTON TOWN compared unfavourably with their opponents, BOURNEMOUTH UNITED, at Luton on Saturday, but for the day the main thing was the result, and there the Town had the all-important pull. Moreover, taking the game as a whole, they got no more than their desserts, for their second half display entitled them to the success. Before the final whistle, however, they had a wholesome respect for the visitors, as, indeed, had everybody present.

Well-balanced in every department, muscular, sturdy and with plenty of pace and pluck, the Bournemouth team certainly looked like potential champions, and, but for their various blunders on their own ground, would have been as likely as Plymouth Argyle to finish at the top of the table. They began like a winning side, and, on the pudding-like turf, got the ball about at fine speed, and with accuracy of pass. They certainly had the better of the game in the first half-hour, and it was rather unfortunate for them that they failed to beat Banes.

The Town goalkeeper had plenty to do, if there was not a great deal of it. He made brilliant saves, however, before McSevich had seen much of the ball, and the general instability of the Town defence as a whole caused a lot of uneasiness among the supporters. Apart from a few skirmishes, the Town forwards did not get a lot of the ball, for the home halves found it as much as they could do to keep touch with the speedy and virile visiting attack. Yet there was no goal before the change of ends, though each citadel had narrow escapes.

The chief of these came early for the Town. In the first minute, Fulton headed out when Banes was beaten, and Wright struck the bar with a fine drive. Beswick and Eyre each missed later when they had the goal at their mercy, and Banes made a wonderful save from Eyre. At the other end, Clark hit the cross-piece with a rasping drive right away from McSevich, and Boylen, Birch, Yardley and Drinnan all came close, while there was a confident appeal for a penalty that did not impress the referee when Brown handled.

LUTON	nil
BOURNEMOUTH	nil

Considering the rough time the Town had experienced, their resumption was a surprise. They began to hammer away at the Bournemouth goal, and thrice within a few minutes, only just failed to beat McSevich. He was in fine form, and saved well, and after a brief excursion, in which Fulton saved the Town goal, the only goal of the match was scored. The movement came on the left, thanks firstly to the fine work of Fraser. A corner-kick brought a scramble in the Bournemouth goal-mouth, and YARDLEY managed to steer the ball through, McSevich making a gallant, but unavailing effort to clear.

Within the next few minutes, McSevich saved several times, and then came a thrill at the other end. The visiting left wing got right through; Eyre received

right in the jaws of goal, with only Banes to beat, but the Town goalkeeper dived full-length and took the ball off his feet, saving at the expense of a corner. It was a great save, and two or three more saves by Banes also won applause.

For the rest of the game, however, the Town were the better side, and McSevich often saved his goal. One save from Yardley, made at full-length, was positively brilliant, and deserved the hearty recognition of the crowd. As in the first half, there were several occasions when the Town forwards almost bombarded the Bournemouth goal, and shot after shot struck defenders when McSevich would have had little chance, but there was no further score.

Now and then there was rather too much vigour, and the forceful methods of the Bournemouth halves and backs were not always to the liking of the Town players or the crowd. The game was not handled at all well, and there was more demonstration against the referee than we have had at Luton for a long time. Generally, the roughness was due to enthusiasm and determination rather than foul play. The visitors impressed by their strength and stamina, and they were better equipped for the conditions than the Town.

Banes and McSevich both played grandly, and in the long run there was not much to choose between the respective pairs of backs, though the Town pair did not begin at all well. When they settled down they accepted the strenuous challenges of the visitors with stout hearts, and got through much heavy work. The Town halves were not so good as a line as those of Bournemouth, but Fraser again proved the best half-back on the field. He played magnificently, and Clark and Fulton got over a shaky start, and subsequently held their own fairly well.

Drinnan was always conspicuous with delightful touches, and McInnes now and then responded, and gave a lot of trouble, though he could have centred much better. On the right wing, Boylen was patchy, doing good things and then failing unexpectedly. Birch continued to show cleverness, but did not give Boylen too much of the ball, being disposed to work inside when a pass to the wing would have been more useful. Yardley was a thrustful leader, and a warm handful for the visiting backs.

McSevich, Birch, Halliwell, Bradford, Beswick and Bryce were the best of the visitors, though all played well.

There were just under 8,000 spectators.

LUTON TOWN	1
BOURNEMOUTH UNITED ...	0

LUTON. — Banes; Richards, Smith; Fulton, Clark, Fraser; Boylen, Birch, Yardley, Drinnan, McInnes.

BOURNEMOUTH. — McSevich; Birch, Brown; Halliwell, Wright, Bradford; Bryce, McInally, Eyre, S. M. Beswick, Williams.

Referee: Mr. G. Franklin, Portsmouth.