

TOWN'S GREAT GAME.

WATFORD'S GOALKEEPER PREVENTS A ROUT.

Dazzling Forward Play.

By Crusader.

LUTON TOWN 4
WATFORD 1

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Hodgson; Clark, McGinnigle, Fraser; Bryce, M'Nestry, Yardley, Rennie, Slicer.

WATFORD. — Holland; Brown, Clements; Blake, McBain, Woodward; Lowe, Barnett, James, Miller, Pick.

Referee.—Mr. L. Boulstridge, Tamworth.

ENTHUSIASM for the game itself rather than for the bare result, never reached such heights at Luton this season as was the case yesterday, when the Town fully avenged their two defeats at Watford in the first half of the season. What the few Watford supporters thought of the change in the Luton side I cannot imagine, but they must have been very glad that this eleven did not serve Luton in the Cup-tie at Watford. The workmanship generally was magnificent, and I can faithfully add that the play all round was almost identical with that provided at Southend. On that occasion I said that they need fear no side if the standard were maintained, and everyone of the supporters yesterday must have concurred. It was a good game other than that it was almost one-sided for long periods; the referee made as many mistakes as any individual player, and at first I thought he would have a bad time, but he improved, and his faults were overlooked because of the quality of the football played by the Town. This was his first league game, apparently, for he has only just been promoted, and he began as though he would penalise every tackle, but he outlived the criticism hurled at him from all parts of the ground.

WATFORD'S BEST.

It was rather curious that Watford's best period was in the first ten minutes when they were facing the stiff wind. They used their fleet wingers very well during that time, and the Town goal had two or three narrow escapes. Harford was very lucky to see the ball in play two or three times, and he also made very fine saves. Then we saw the Town pull together, and Holland made a wonderful save at full length from Yardley. Clark just missed with a free kick after McGinnigle had been tripped. Holland again saved in great style from M'Nestry and Clark, and then Rennie fired wide. The Watford goalkeeper beat out a centre from Bryce, and the goal underwent a little seige from the corner kick. Following this Watford had another turn, but Pick shot wide after Harford had once saved in capital fashion. Holland was fortunate to get the tips of his fingers to another centre from Bryce, and the Town assailed the goal fiercely, shots being tried by all the forwards, and Holland making many good saves.

HOLLAND BUSY.

Fraser and his wing played great football hereabouts, and the Watford defenders were constantly harassed. Holland saved finely from Slicer, and the Town halves joined in the attack, even Hodgson coming along full tilt, to shoot wide. A beautiful bit of work by the Town left wing ended with Rennie missing by inches with a terrific shot. The Town were again lucky when Clark tried to pass back to Harford, and the ball dragged in the mud. James got to it, and had an easy chance, but he shot first time, and the ball went far away from the target when Harford seemed to be in a hopeless position. The Town took up the running again, the combination being brilliant, and Bryce finished very badly when he was given a clear run through. Clever play by McGinnigle helped the Town forwards to continue on the aggressive, and the centre-half was loudly applauded for excellent tackling. A moment later Fraser outwitted several opponents, and then plied Rennie and Slicer, and they went through, for the latter to shoot with great force, but Holland brought off a glorious one-handed save, and then repeated the effort when Bryce similarly drove in from close quarters.

TWO UP.

The Town's heavy pressure was successful after twenty-four minutes' play. M'Nestry made ground up the middle, and then transferred unexpectedly to Slicer; the winger centred finely, and Yardley unselfishly tapped the ball to RENNIE, who took it on the run and beat Holland all ends up with a fast cross-shot. Luton continued to press furiously, and Holland again evoked applause by wonderful saves from Rennie and Bryce, while M'Nestry and Clark shot over, and Slicer sent in a shot that slithered just over the bar. The Town were definitely on top now, and Holland saved time after time, but two minutes before the change of ends he was beaten by BRYCE, who received a delightful pass from Rennie. Holland again thwarted the Town forwards, and dashed out to kick the ball off Yardley's foot when the latter was right through, and the referee had his whistle ready for the interval signal when Watford broke away and Pick shot wide.

LUTON TOWN 2
WATFORD Nil

It was anticipated that Watford would show in better light with the wind at their backs, and it seemed that the Town defenders expected this, for they were content to concentrate on defence in the early minutes after the re-start. They held the visiting forwards well, and the first danger was to the Watford goal, for Slicer rushed

away and passed neatly to Yardley, who turned the ball on to Bryce, and the latter sent behind. Harford had to save a long shot from Miller, and then the Town had rather the better of the midfield exchanges without making any definite assault. Almost suddenly the Town sprang back to their first-half superiority. The ball was kept on the carpet very cleverly, and the Watford halves could not stay the progress, but Holland and his backs played well.

GREAT GOALKEEPING.

The neat passing by the Town inside forwards resulted in Rennie taking a shot at point blank range, but Holland saved in marvellous style. There was a scrimmage after this, and the Town rained in shots against a phalanx of defenders, the ball rebounding time after time, and the crowd yelling with excitement as they expected the goal to fall at every shot. Kingham found difficulty in holding a Watford effort on the left, and then ran over and dispossessed Lowe. Once Yardley burst through, and failed to take a good chance brought about by his own skill, for he passed to Bryce when he might have shot from close quarters after he had floored Brown with a lusty charge. Yardley was given offside in another hot attack, and then Holland was loudly cheered from a great save from Bryce. Yardley skilfully drew the defence and then presented Slicer with a clear sprint into the goal-mouth, but the light winger was unceremoniously bowled over by Clements, the crowd vainly appealing for a penalty kick. Holland again saved his charge in extraordinary manner after Yardley had taken a pass from Slicer almost under the bar.

M'NESTRY'S DASH.

Fraser skimmed the bar with a lovely shot after a dazzling dribble, and then Watford raced away on the left, and Harford had to save a long shot from Pick. For a few moments Watford kept play in the Town half, but they did not trouble the goalkeeper, and were eventually driven back. The Town right wing then challenged hotly, and the bright passing sent the crowd into ecstasies of delight. Bryce finally centred, and the ball ran along the face of the bar, was captured by Slicer, and lifted back into the goal-mouth, and M'NESTRY dashed in and breasted the ball into the net. This goal came twenty-three minutes after the resumption, and the Town were now thoroughly masters of the game. Rennie was foiled by Brown right in front of goal, two or three corners were forced without effect, and Holland saved again and again as shots rattled in from all quarters.

WATFORD'S ORPHAN.

Clever work by Pick gave Lowe a chance at the other end, but he sent much too high, and the Town were soon at it again. The right wing made a remarkable assault, in which Clark and Bryce changed and interchanged, and the former centred well, but the ball was scrambled away. Holland was always on the alert, and saved finely from Rennie and M'Nestry, and McGinnigle shot wide after a neat dribble. Fraser followed suit after speedy manœuvring on the left wing. Four minutes from the end the visitors' left wing dashed away, and Pick was unattended. Hodgson ran across, but was beaten, and the winger centred. There seemed no real danger, and the Town defenders appeared to ease up, so that BARNETT secured and beat Harford with a nice ground shot. That was not the end, for the Town came back with renewed energy. Rennie crashed the ball against the bar, and Holland saved twice in wonderful manner from the same forward, from M'Nestry and Yardley. Kingham made a splendid run nearly two-thirds the length of the field, and as a result a corner was forced on the right. Bryce placed well, and M'Nestry helped the ball along to YARDLEY, who scored at close range to complete a magnificent victory.

COME AND SEE 'EM.

If the Town are going to play in this style they will soon bring all the supporters to the ground, and there will be no grumbling. Apart from a slight faltering at the start they were always the better side, and there were periods when they were a really great side. They made the ball do the work, and kept it on the move with passes delightful in accuracy and pace. The reconstructed forward line played remarkably fine football, and to a man deserved highest praise. Rennie was acclaimed, and deserved it, but the whole line kept together well, and evinced a dash and enterprise combined with skilful footwork that was a revelation to the spectators.

The halves were in masterly form, and I was glad to hear McGinnigle cheered so often. He played finely throughout, and none did better on the sticky turf. Fraser was at his best, and Clark completed a formidable line that helped the backs had not a heavy afternoon, but both played well, and Harford had a comparatively soft time.

For Watford, Holland played a great game; he could never have done better, and had the score been trebled he could not have been blamed. He averted a rout. His backs worked hard, but had too much, for the middle men could not hold the Town attack, and so the forwards got little assistance. They showed individual skill, but not a lot of team work.

There were 4,500 spectators.