

EIGHT GOALS FOR LUTON

THAMES SWAMPED

Fine Finishing By Fleet Forwards

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN 8
THAMES 0

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

THAMES.—Bailey; Donnelly, Smith; Warner, Spence, Igoe; F. Le May, McCarthy, Perry, Phillips, Mann.

Referee.—Mr. S. F. Rous, Hemel Hempstead.

WHEN we were at Norwich on Easter Saturday, we were informed that the THAMES players, flushed with their recent successes, had confided to the City that they were undoubtedly going to "put it across" LUTON TOWN. Confidence and enthusiasm takes a team a long way along the road to success these days, but are not the be-all and end-all, even in football, as Thames discovered to their dismay, at Luton, on Saturday. Perhaps they did not deserve to be beaten so badly, for they were always plucky and progressive, but none would deny that the Town merited every goal, and that generally, Thames were much inferior to the victors. The reason the Town scored their heaviest victory since the war was the readiness

with which they accepted chances, and these came simply because the forwards took the quickest route to goal. Now and then there were periods when the town showed inclination to ease up, and Thames came near scoring.

BAILEY NOT THE BOGEY

Early exchanges did not indicate a runaway success, and the first effort worthy of applause came from Clark, who dashed up the wing and fired at express speed, but Bailey caught the ball brilliantly under the bar, and that save made us wonder if he were going to prove the bogey of the Town forwards once more. Thames were persistent; to every raid they replied, and the extreme wingers, cleverly plied by Phillips, were very troublesome. Harford, indeed, had rather more work than Bailey for a time, and backs and halves were kept alert. There was even then a suggestion in the Town's forward work that they were not indulgently exerting themselves, but seventeen minutes after the kick-off they opened their account. Clark paved the way with skilful work in conjunction with Heslop and M'Nestry, and the ball was swung over to the left; Bryce lobbed it forward for Yardley or M'Nestry; there was a suspicion of offside in the position of the former, but, wisely, he never moved, and M'NESTRY tripped in and slipped the ball past Bailey. It was a good goal, though the visitors protested on the grounds of offside, but M'Nestry was quite all right, and Yardley never interfered with the play.

CLARK AND BRYCE

A bright effort by Phillips found the Town defenders unprepared, and McCarthy seemed certain to equalise, but Fraser had sensed the danger, and turned up just in time to block a hard drive by the inside right. This was the sting that roused the Town, and they swept down on the Thames goal time after time. A stubborn and lusty defence repelled them several times, but eventually another right wing onslaught brought a stiff tussle, in which Yardley, close to the line, prevailed, and passed to Bryce, the latter back-heeled the ball and Warner deliberately hit the ball with his hand. A penalty kick was the only possible award, and CLARK crashed the ball past Bailey at lightning speed. Thames retaliated, and there was a scuffle in the Town goal-mouth, but Thames were forced back, and when M'Nestry gave Heslop a lovely pass the winger made ground and lifted the ball over the goal area to BRYCE, who met it with his head, to the discomfiture of Bailey.

BEST OF THE BATCH

From now to the interval, Thames had to fight hard to prevent goals, and Spence and his backs worked valiantly to stem the tide. They did not hesitate to use their weight, and there were a few free kicks, but nothing of serious import in the way of personal damage. There was only one success, however, and that was probably the best goal of the match from the individual aspect. McGinnigle lifted the ball well over the visiting halves, and it was Donnelly or Yardley for possession. The full back did not bargain for the stoutness of his opponent, and was beaten, but YARDELEY had to go to the left to recover the ball, and as he aimed Bailey ran out, only to see the ball pass and land in the net. It was a very fine goal, and there were three more efforts that might well have increased the score when Fraser, M'Nestry and Bryce each had shots, but the interval found a tally of four:

LUTON 4
THAMES 0

There was a distinct laziness in the Town's play when the game was resumed, and for a long time Thames appeared likely to reduce the deficit. They worked very hard, and though Phillips was hobbling on the extreme left, he managed to swing the ball in front of goal very nicely on several occasions, and Perry and McCarthy were always on hand for a try. The Town made skirmishes that caused Bailey anxiety, but Harford had the more work, even if it were not very exacting.

SIX UP

After Perry's strong individual effort had been foiled by the judgment of Harford, Heslop was given a run; Donnelly raced across and intercepted, but could not beat off the light-weight, and when the back slipped down, Heslop took possession and dropped the ball in front of goal. Yardley might have reached it, but merely feinted to draw off Smith, let the ball go, and SLICER had an easy goal. The Town surged round Bailey's goal, which had narrow escapes. Bailey saved brilliantly from M'Nestry, and then Bryce, who had changed places with Slicer owing to injury, swung the ball in front of goal, and there was a series of escapes before Heslop rushed in and lifted the ball against the bar; YARDELEY was on hand and promptly netted. Just afterwards Yardley got the ball into the net again, but had used his elbow to knock the ball out of Bailey's hands, and the referee saw him.

WINGERS AT WORK

Warm applause was accorded the diminutive Le May for his sterling

efforts, but neither Fraser nor Hodgson seriously challenged the little fellow. From his centre Perry headed against the bar, and Harford had to be spry to deal with other efforts. Clark tried a solo effort, but was heavily brought down, and the free kick was well placed. Yardley spoiling by getting offside. The Town came again, and with the Thames defence quite unable to check them, it was not surprising that further goals came. Bryce gave Slicer a pass which was taken on the run, and the winger, though he sent the ball far forward, caught it almost on the line, and a characteristic centre found M'NESTRY so well placed that the seventh goal was easy. After Fraser had gone close with a magnificent shot, Slicer, keeping the ball almost glued to his toe, went through and then swung across goal for HESLOP to nip in and score the last.

THE TOWN

Apart from an occasional tendency to take things too easily, the Town played well to a man. Harford had a few tests, but not many of a serious nature. Kingham and Hodgson again played splendidly, but, in the main, their work was easy, because the halves were on top. Clark had a field day, and there can be no doubt that he has settled down on the flank, and on present form has no superior there. McGinnigle did fine work in the first half, but seemed to tire after the change of ends for a time, only to recover and put in more good work before the end. Fraser played delightful football, as usual, and all the line fed their forwards with nice passes, and opened out well. The play of the forwards succeeded so thoroughly because they adopted the right methods. They made full use of the wingers, and Heslop and Slicer enjoyed the work. Both showed great speed and centred accurately, and Yardley was always on the spot when there was a chance. He troubled the backs, and never gave an opponent a moment's peace. M'Nestry was less successful than usual because he tried to do too much, and yet his passes to Heslop suggested that he was compensating for the absence of Rennie. The latter was not missed as much as was expected, for Bryce showed the right spirit in finding the best positioned colleague with his passes, and time after time varied play by sending well over to the right. The experiment was a success.

THAMES

For Thames, Harry Bailey could not be blamed at all; apart from the penalty kick every goal came from inside the goal area, and he was helpless to save. Donnelly and Smith kicked well and tackled strongly for a time, but they and the halves alike were generally out-paced. Perry was a really fine leader, and Le May a clever winger, though very gently treated by his opponents.

The attendance was 6,028, and receipts £329 15s.