

CUP-TIE DEFEAT

LUTON LOSE TO THE WOLVES

(By Crusader)

IF popular opinion was justified by the result of the match between LUTON TOWN and WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS, at Luton on Saturday, it was not altogether amplified by the run of the game. The Wolves made a very good start, but they were playing second fiddle, though doing it extremely well, until a quarter of an hour after the change of ends, when they varied their style of play, and for a matter of fifteen or twenty minutes played a masterly game that certified their advantage.

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THERE was quite enough vigour, and a few incidents that left a rather unpleasant taste in the mouth. The reputation of the Wolves for rough play seemed likely to be well proven, but, fortunately, the referee was not passing over fouls lightly, and his early insistence probably cleansed the game a good deal. Kean and Hodgson came in for some little criticism for fouls on the Wolves, but in each case it was a matter of reprisal, for Kean was badly fouled by Richards just after the start, and twice Hodgson had to receive trainer's attention after being crippled by opponents early in the game.

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UNDOUBTEDLY the Town captain's play suffered as a result of each of these fouls, and if I were asked to name the players who most deserved warning for the tendency to infringe the laws, the Wolves' wingers, the smallest men in the game, would be the pair. Generally speaking, however, the referee's intentions were accepted, and considering what was at stake in the match, it was not really bad. The Wolves deserved their success because they were able to take two of the chances that came their way, whereas the Town, who made quite as many openings, and had as much of the midfield play, could only succeed once.

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IT was in the first half that the Town should have made the game secure, and though there was still much to be desired about their work, in which there

when the goalkeeper was well beaten, but the methods spelt success, and duly it came. Deacon did some neat dodging on the left, and when a pass to his partner was expected, he sent the ball into the middle, and PHILLIPS, who had closed in, tripped through brightly to beat Imrie at close range.

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WE all thought that the Town would reduce the deficit from the kick-off, as they went through by brilliant passing among the inside men, and before the Wolves had touched the ball Rennie put in a splendid shot which Whittaker saved at full length. This was about the best movement the Town forwards had made, and more of it was wanted. In a measure it came, but not with the same threat, though there were a number of shots at the Wolves' goal which deserved a better fate than goal-kicks. Following a spell of activity on the Wolves' front, during which Hartill did get the ball into the net from an offside position, the Town made some improvement, and after a sharp run on the left wing Rennie got the ball into the middle, for YARDLEY to score a capital goal.

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THERE remained but five minutes for play, and the Wolves had the better of it for the next four minutes. Then their goal had another escape, for in the last few seconds a rush on the Town right wing brought a pass from M'Nestry after Tait had made it possible, and Whittaker went down to save among a ruck of players near the post. There was a hot scuffle, and then the ball was seen to emerge, and it appeared to strike the upright as it went behind. Apparently an opponent had got in the way, or Whittaker had knocked the ball behind. The flag-kick was got away, and the whistle came with the Wolves successful by the odd goal of three.

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IMRIE kept goal well enough, and was blameless, and Hodgson played his usual reliable game in spite of injury, but Kingham had a bad time for an hour. McGinnigle was the big man of the defensive departments, playing a magnificent game, and Kean and Fraser were good enough as supports for the attack, though both found lively opponents in the diminutive wingers, who were fast and tricky. Yardley led his line very nicely again, but deserved more support, and none of the other forwards rose to his very best.

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WHITTAKER had not a great deal of work, but showed that he could be trusted, as also did Lumberg, deputising for Kay at left-back. Lowton, however, was the stalwart of the rear-guard, and played a wonderful game. All the middle men were capable, and were especially good in their following up, Hollingsworth being the most notable. Phillips and Barracough were very clever, but they owed much to the feeding they received, and the line generally displayed more cuteness and better generalship than the Town.

WOLVERHAMPTON WAN. ... 2
LUTON TOWN 1

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LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; M'Nestry, Tait, Yardley, Rennie, Slicer.

WOLVERHAMPTON. — Whittaker; Lowton, Lumberg; Rhodes, Hollingsworth, Richards; Phillips, Bottrill, Hartill, Deacon, Barracough.

Referee.—Mr. A. Jelly, Leicester.