

ORIENT GO NAP

TIRED TOWN TEAM DESERVE BETTER FATE

Poor Finishing By Luton

(By CRUSADER)

CLAPTON ORIENT 5
LUTON TOWN 1

LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Wilson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Cupit, Tait, Yardley, Rennie, Turner.

ORIENT.—Emery; Broadbent, Allison; Williams, Fowler, Peacock; Jack, Tricker, Fletcher, Mills, Best.

Referee.—Mr. E. C. Carnwell, Lichfield.

EFFECTS of the hard game on Saturday were plainly evident yesterday afternoon, when the Town were heavily defeated by Clapton Orient at Luton. In spite of the vast difference between the teams in the result, however, the Town had much more of the game, and had there been as efficient finishing by the home forwards as by the visitors, the result would certainly have been a victory. The main trouble with the Town was that they lacked just that extra bit of nip that would have achieved what they were tired, and particularly the inside forwards and the middle men. On the other hand, the Orient, who had a holiday on Saturday, were fresh, and while often outwitted and continually forced to defend for extensive periods, they had that invaluable advantage of quickness in recovery that enabled them to thwart the many good intentions, often finely carried out up to the danger zone, of the Town attack. Four of the Orient goals came from breakaway, with the tired Town defenders unable to cope with the speed of the visiting wingers.

EARLY PRESSURE

Kean, who captained the Town, won the toss, and elected to attack the Kentworth-road end. There seemed to be no advantage, but it was found later on that there was a better foothold at the other end. The Orient started keenly, their left wing making the progress, but Kean relieved in timely fashion. Jack was offside in another advance, and then the Town began to open out the game a bit, with good results. Twice, thanks to the swinging of the ball from right to left, and left to right, there were dangerous thrusts, and first Rennie and then Turner fired too high. The Orient responded with a neat left-wing assault, but Best, when he appeared to be well through, was wrong in his aim, and missed rather badly. A sparkling run by the Town forwards, initiated by Fraser, once more carried the ball well into the penalty area, and Turner ran in and drove a hard shot at goal, Emery bringing off a capital save while on his knees.

ORIENT GET GOING

The ground was again cutting up very badly, and it was difficult to get the ball through the mud in the middle, but the Orient kept swinging it out to the wings, and they several times raided, but for the most part the Town were pressing, and only the fine work of Broadbent and Allison kept them at bay. A delightful push through the middle by Rennie was seized by Yardley, who darted between the backs, but he could not get in his shot quickly enough, and it was blocked, and when Rennie tried another, Emery saved well. The Orient right went through, but Wilson stopped the rush, and the Town returned, but Emery again saved when Cupit centred and Tait headed in. A quick spurt by the Orient right brought a clever centre from Jack, and Tricker headed inches wide. Eleven minutes after the start there was some loose play on the Town left flank, and Jack and Tricker got the ball into the middle, where Mills pounced on it, and drove a hard shot at close quarters; Imrie managed to get in the way, but the ball rebounded straight to MILLS, who scored at the second attempt.

GOOD GOALKEEPING

The Town then attacked hotly, and after time the forwards got the ball well through, but could not get a scoring shot. Yardley, Tait and Emery tried time after time, but somehow the ball dragged in the mud, and whenever it went too high. Then Emery made some very fine saves, and his backs tackled and kicked desperately. One hard drive by Rennie rebounded to Tait, but his shot missed by the narrowest margin. Cupit then got across for three neat centres, but these were intercepted. A well-planned assault by the Orient followed, and Imrie did well to get at a terrific shot by Tricker, the goalkeeper diving full length to knock the ball aside, and Kean cleared. Jack was next in the picture with bright work, but Kingham ran across and cleared, and the Town resumed their pressure. Tait and Yardley passed and crossed, and the inside-right swung the ball to the left wing, and Turner got the ball into the middle well, but Yardley could not control quickly enough to beat Broadbent.

HE CAME OFF—BEST

Emery again made good saves, and when the Orient dashed away to the other end it appeared that one of the Town defenders handled but there was no bodily appeal, and none granted. A splendid bit of work by Rennie again showed the Town on the aggressive, and he ran through to shoot magnificently. Emery again brought off a brilliant save by diving across goal, and shortly afterwards repeated the feat when

Turner shot hard. Best was pulled up just in time by McGinnigle, and this was the prelude to further great work by Emery, who saved shots time after time. McGinnigle, who had been playing grandly, was injured, and had to go off for repairs, and while he was away the Orient tore down the field, and BEST presented with a clear run, lost no time in getting in front of Imrie to beat him with a fine shot. The Town were now obviously tiring, and an almost identical movement found BEST again too fast for the Town defenders, and he ran through to send home another great shot. The Town struggled on, but could not penetrate, and the interval found the score.

ORIENT 3
TOWN 0

The score was generally well against the run of the play, and it did not do the Town players any good to have to turn round and resume their labours without a break. To the surprise of the crowd of 2,000, however, they set up a most determined attack, and, try as they would, the Orient could not keep the ball out of the danger zone for many seconds. Shots were rained in at Emery, but usually they lacked speed, and, though the Town inside-forwards were persistently in the goal-mouth, they could not find the shot that would beat Emery. The right wing was prominent, Tait working very hard, and it was from that quarter the advance came that eventually succeeded. Cupit gave to Tait, who transferred at the right moment to RENNIE, and he fired in a first-timer that completely beat Emery. The crowd cheered loudly, for it was a good goal, and they looked for more, especially as the Orient were penned in their penalty area.

EMERY EXCELLENT

Time after time the Town forwards seemed bound to further reduce the lead, but could not overcome Emery, and, with Broadbent also playing a fine game, the attack was kept under to some extent. There was no excuse for a very bad foul by Broadbent on Yardley, and he deserved more than the rebuke he received from the referee. From the free kick Emery saved magnificently a header from Tait. The Town continued to assert superiority and a goal seemed inevitable almost every minute, but it did not come. Once Yardley lifted the ball high over the bar when the feat seemed impossible, and Emery got somehow to shots by Tait and Cupit when a less capable custodian would have been well beaten. There was a sudden spurt by the Orient right wing, and Best missed in ludicrous fashion when Jack had given him a gilt-edged chance.

IMRIE'S BLUNDERS

Corner after corner fell to the Town in subsequent attacks, but Cupit could not get the ball nearly the distance. Kingham once made a dribble more than half the length of the field, and passed nicely forward, but there was too much close work in the Town's movements near goal, and never a shot that could count. Another break-away by the Orient found Imrie at home to a good shot by Fletcher, and then the Town pressed harder than ever. They had very hard luck, but they were also incapable of a good shot, and the issue was placed beyond doubt when JACK broke away with a clear field, and, out distancing the opposition, sent in a hard ground shot; Imrie appeared to have the ball well covered, but let it slip through his hands. Luton did not show any dismay, but went into their work as hard as ever, and Tait just missed with a grand shot. Then came another raid by Jack, and Best missed the easiest chance of the match, for he sent wide when he had all the goal to shoot at and only Imrie in the way. However, the Orient came again, and Jack centred; Imrie got to the ball, but was slow in getting it away, and Fletcher rushed into him, forcing him to drop the ball, and MILLS banged it into the net. McGinnigle went off at this stage, and Rennie was fouled badly, and the Town again remained the more aggressive, but could not beat Emery, and the game ended with the visitors easy winners.

PLAYERS

Imrie has never made such a blunder before, but he was not to blame for the defeat. Kingham played as well as could be expected, but Wilson, though kicking well, was again too deliberate for this class, and Jack often got the better of him. Fraser was the pick of the halves, but all three, while doing splendid work in the main, showed real signs of fatigue. Cupit did not get a lot of chances, and he needs practice in centreing, but he did get the ball across fairly well. Tait worked very hard indeed, and did not hang on so much, while Yardley was as thrustful as ever, but rather too slow at close quarters. Rennie fed cleverly, and Turner did a few good things, but there was generally a lack of confidence at close quarters, or there must have been a lot of goals from the amount of pressure exerted.

For the Orient, Emery was a magnificent goalkeeper, and had as much to do with the victory as his forwards.

Broadbent played a powerful game at back, and Allison was a useful partner. In the middle line there was nothing outstanding, but the forwards were a strong and assertive line, and knew the best way to goal. They also got the ball into the middle when necessary, but usually had the sagacity to make their main progress by means of the wings where the going was good.