

ANOTHER DRAW AT EXETER

LUTON TOWN'S FORM AWAY

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN brought off a very fine achievement by drawing at EXETER on Saturday, for the City team are making a strong bid for the championship, though not likely to supplant either Fulham or Brentford. In many respects they are the style of the Brentford side, for they went into their business with spirit and determination, now and then overstepping the bounds of prudence, with the result that one or two players suffered injury of minor character.

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PACE and strength were the dominant features of the match, and for combination and general cleverness the Town were the better side. Indeed, had they varied methods a little more in the first half, and infused into their play some of the resolute tactics of the City, they would not have been in arrears at the interval. Without shedding craft in the second half they contrived to put more punch into attack, with the result that the City defenders got rattled, and it was good to see the Town team last the game much better than opponents, who were pretty well fagged and glad to hear the whistle.

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THE ball moved rapidly from end to end in the first half, with the City doing slightly more attacking, but not often did they look like scoring, and for clear cut advances the Town were the better. The City forwards, however, never allowed an opportunity to pass without challenging, and their goal was the reward of alertness to profit by a blunder. Yardley touched the ball back to Fraser when the move was not expected, and before the half-back could recover position, Purcell slipped in and, with Armfield, took the ball right down; then Purcell shot hard, and Imrie managed to stop the ball while lying at full length, but could not get it away, and DONCASTER banged it home.

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TWENTY-SEVEN minutes had elapsed then, and the Town had the better of the game afterwards, but finished rather weakly, all the forwards finding the stalwart City defenders very keen in tackling. On the other hand the City nearly increased their lead, Varco putting over the bar when a goal seemed a certainty. Imrie made good saves, but so did Davies, and there was little to choose between the sides as far as general play was concerned, so, on the whole, the Town had little to grumble about when half-time was called.

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IN the second period the City's efforts were largely restricted to raids, though in the early stages they made one determined onslaught that lasted several minutes and actually got the ball into the net; however not only was the scorer offside but Imrie was obstructed and though the crowd at first made a big noise they soon subsided. Imrie had two or three anxious spells, but kept his head, and with the backs and halves playing as well as ever they have done, the goal was not often in jeopardy.

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AT the other end, however, the Town forwards were showing much improve-

ment, and the home goal had several narrow escapes before it fell, while afterwards there were at least three occasions, not reckoning the claims for penalty kicks, when, with a little good fortune goals would have been scored. Once Loasby took advantage of a mistake by Gray and ran clear: as Davies ran out he lobbed the ball over the goal-keeper's head, and it went over an empty goal. The equalising point was the result of a clever and tricky run by Tait. The right wing trio had puzzled the City defenders very often, and now they came along with neat passes, and Tait ran to the line as Cupit misled the opposition by running inside; two or three attempts were made to dislodge Tait, but he got through, and then gave a splendid pass to LOASBY, who held the ball a fraction of a second and then drove home a magnificent shot right away from Davies.

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A PART from a hot retaliation straight from the re-start, the City were defending desperately, and the Town forwards, working much better than in the first half, threatened time after time to take the lead. Loasby was brought down twice, once in the penalty area, while he had very hard luck with a header from Yardley's centre. Cupit also did well, and Turner skimmed the bar with a shot that would almost have broken the cross-piece had it been two or three inches lower.

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IT was a well-deserved point, and the team deserved the praise they received from the crowd, the local officials and the Press. There was more team spirit than usual, but the dominant factor was the fine play of the halves in supporting the attack, and the skilful play of Kingham and Hodgson in arresting the fierce attempts of the City forwards. Imrie was also as safe as ever, and it was perhaps the solidity of the men behind that gave courage and resolution to the forwards.

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WITHOUT saying that one man was better than another, I would like to refer to the leadership of Loasby. In the first half he saw very little of the ball, but had so few passes, and there were usually three men hounding him if it did come his way. In the second half he did not hold the ball so much, and had very hard lines on several occasions. Cupit's needs experience, for he has football talent, but against big men a little one must exercise his wits; experience will give him this sharpness. Tait's manner of paying the way for the goal again made me wish very earnestly that he was given a chance on the wing, and it would never surprise me to find him develop into a better winger than an inside man. It gives him more scope for the close work he likes, and man to man he can hold his own with the toughest.

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LUTON TOWN	1

EXETER CITY.—Davies; Gray, Miller; Clarke, Childs, Barber; Armfield, Purcell, Varco, Halliday, Doncaster.

LUTON TOWN.—Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Cupit, Tait, Loasby, Yardley, Turner.

Referee. Mr. W. E. Russell, Swindon.