

MORE TEAM WORK

LUTON HALVES IN FORM AT BOURNEMOUTH

Loasby's Valuable Goal

(By "CRUSADER")

BOURNEMOUTH & BOSCOMBE 1
LUTON TOWN

BOURNEMOUTH. — Gold; Hayward, Whitehouse, Halliwell, Coxford, Moralee; Williams (L.), White, Eyre, Webb, Russell.

LUTON. — Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; McNestry, Tait, Loasby, Rennie, Turner.

Referee.—Mr. G. T. Gould, Woolwich.

IN the ordinary run of things one would be inclined to say that the loss of a player of the merit of Eyre so early in the game—after twelve minutes—was little short of a disaster. There were circumstances that induced one to halt before expressing that opinion for this particular game. That Bournemouth will suffer a big loss, if it is true he has broken his collar-bone there can be no doubt but the result of his departure was that Bournemouth played such an open game, there was so much more free transfer of the ball among the four forwards, that the question arose as to whether the attack was not more effective. The wind played such tricks that few players could control the ball efficiently, and the lusty swinging methods of the home forwards paid much better than close work. Still, we should probably have said that the Town laboured under a big handicap had Hodgson not been able to return, and Bournemouth must be given full marks for a plucky display.

GOOD HALF-BACKS

The feature of the game was the very fine spoiling work of the middle men, and there was not much to choose between the two lines, though the palm could perhaps rightly be given to the Town trio, for they gave better support to the forwards. On the other hand, the Town were infinitely more dangerous at close quarters, and had sheer bad luck late in the game that they did not succeed on two or three occasions.

Several times when the home team were most dangerous another point arose that gave one furiously to think. One linesman thrice gave decisions that caused doubt in the mind of the referee, and two of these were in regard to corner kicks. Once I thought the official was right, but twice I was absolutely sure he was wrong, and that the crowd's heroic efforts to encourage their side had affected him. The Town players were very sore about it, and had good cause. One was a really bad decision, and the crowd made merry over it.

A BIG BUMP

There was plenty of punch in the home team, and, with the wind at their backs, they swept down on the Town goal, the backs kicking strongly into the Town penalty area, and the forwards rushing the defence. That was how Eyre and Hodgson met with mishap. They went together to head the ball, and the big centre-forward got the worst of it. Both had to be carried off, and, although they returned after five minutes, Eyre struggled along at outside-right, and then had to retire altogether. Hodgson felt the bump unmistakably, and yet played pluckily, and stood in the breach time after time. Rennie-son came into the picture with bright footwork, and when he swung the ball out to the right a quick return might have brought a goal, for Loasby was waiting all alone for the pass, but Whitehouse mastered McNestry. To every advance by the Town the home team replied with a rush, and usually kept the ball in the Town territory the longer, thanks to hard booting.

White seemed a certain scorer when he rushed in and headed a centre from the left, but Imrie had covered, and the ball hit the goalkeeper, and Fraser was on the spot to lift it clear. Kean, who was right at the top of his form, organised a triangular movement with his wing, and they went down, but the wind swerved the ball from its course.

Gold managed to get to it all right. Back came the home left, and Russell tried a shot, the ball bouncing from Imrie's arms close to the post, and, though there was no real danger to the goal, it went for a corner, and the ensuing scrummage gave much anxiety. When the assault was raised McNestry sped away, and was cutting in for goal, when Hayward dashed across and managed to hold the ball as the winger tried to dribble round him. Then came the fiercest attack so far, and the Town backs and McGinnigle did sterling work: Webb headed just wide, and the wind captured a shot from Moralee and nearly tricked Imrie, who got both his fists to the ball in the nick of time. Apart from an occasional raid, the Town were comparatively defenceless, and the wind carried off again when a powerful free kick by Hayward struck the Town skipper and nearly lifted him off his feet. At the whistle for the rest, however, there was no score.

BOURNEMOUTH Nil
LUTON Nil

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BOURNEMOUTH made the first essay on re-starting, but the Town were soon on the move, and Loasby slipped between the backs and shot hard, the ball skimming the bar with Gold out on reach. The home team defended desperately, and, though there was not much intelligent support of the forwards, whenever they got a single share of the game, and, with Hodgson still absent, Kingham, Fraser and McGinnigle had to put in all they knew to prevent a shot. The Town then took a bigger share of the game, and, by keeping the ball down, the halves helped their forwards repeatedly to bear down upon the home goal. Hayward and Whitehouse were strong and accurate, however, and regularly repelled the Town forwards. Tait and McNestry carried on after wonderful work by Kean, and Loasby was just too late to take the pass. Then Turner and Rennie had a turn, and the winger pushed the ball into the middle for Loasby to be over-crowded close in. Deliberately Loasby and McNestry beat the defence completely, but the wind robbed Loasby as he tried to take the ball head high. From a similar movement, Loasby shot first time when he might have run in close, and the ball was well wide.

LOASBY AGAIN

A sprint on the home right left White with the ball, but he also found the breeze too capricious, but a determined raid by the left wing brought a scuffle in the Town goal area, and the ball passed and re-passed dangerously until Hodgson, who had resumed, made a dazzling clearance. The Town were showing the better team work, and when they succeeded it was a well earned goal. Kean opened up the movement after skilful teamwork, and Tait and McNestry carried on; the winger cut in and gave a ground pass to Loasby, who shot from close quarters; Gold got in the way, but could not hold the ball, as he was at full-length, and LOASBY was on it again, and sent into the net. Bournemouth immediately endeavoured to get level, and the right wing forced a corner, according to the linesman, and, from the flag kick, Coxford just missed with a fine header. The Town were now doing well, however, and when Rennie and Turner received from McGinnigle, the extreme winger sent into the middle, and Tait, coming up full tilt, put in a tremendous shot, which had Gold between all the way, but the ball betrayed the bar and went over. Next came another strong effort by Turner, and, from his centre, Loasby seemed bound to score, but, from among a crowd of players, his shot hit the goalkeeper, and when he was trying to get up, three or four players being on the ground, Gold grabbed his leg and held him; McGinnigle tore in and shot, and the ball hit the frantic goalkeeper, and, after another desperate struggle, Hayward kicked away. The Town's appeal for a penalty kick was ignored, the referee being unsighted during the melee.

ALL SQUARE

Again the Town left did good spade work, and a corner kick by Turner came right into the goalmouth; Tait went in to head, and again a goal seemed certain, but the ball "dipped" under the influence of the wind, and ran down his body, to be followed by another goal-line scrummage before Gold got the ball away. The home left wing made progress, and Webb dashed into the middle when he was expected to feed Russell, and, from his pass, White shot in hard all along the ground; Imrie dived and made a glorious save, pushing the ball out, but before he could get up, WILLIAMS had rushed in and shot, the ball striking the upright and glancing into the net. This success encouraged the home team, and they came again, Williams again forcing a corner, and Imrie listed away cleverly. The little storm broke again a stout defence, and the Town resumed the

aggressive. Their work was continually nullified by the gusty wind, but, from a clever centre by Turner, McNestry got in a beautiful header. Gold making a magnificent save at the angle of post, and bar Kean and his right wing made another move, and the half-back slipped through the middle and shot just too high. Rennie and Fraser were conspicuous with brilliant passing, and the home defenders were kept on tenterhooks to prevent the Town snatching victory in the closing stages.

BOURNEMOUTH PLUCK

For their plucky fight Bournemouth deserved much praise. They adopted the right tactics when they lost Eyre, and compensated for his absence by each putting in a bit more. The forwards were both skilful and forceful, and never spared either themselves or opponents. All played well, and the middle men and backs never lost an time in getting the ball out of danger. Both backs were vigorous enough, but played well, and in Gold they have a goalkeeper as good as one could wish to see. McNestry is a splendid custodian, but it is not surprising that he has had to give way to this youngster.

TOWN CONTENT

The fact that they had the odds on their side discounted somewhat from the Town's performance, although, as stated at the beginning, the possibilities of the open methods of the home forwards may have been all to the good. Imrie had not a tremendous amount of work, but made three or four great saves, and Kingham and Hodgson were grand backs. Neither made a serious error, and, in view of the manner in which the wind played with the ball, which was no mean thing to keep such a strong line at bay. The best part of the team, however, was the middle line. All three played grand football. Kean doing wonderful work, and zone of his intelligent support deserved better success from the forwards. Fraser was right back to his very best, and McGinnigle again played a sound game. The forwards were rather pretty but suffered, because in the open the gusts of wind diverted many well timed passes, and the ball zig-zagged and squirmed in perplexing fashion. Loasby did not get much chance in the first half, but was a warm hand for the defence in the second. There was nothing to choose between the wings, for both did well. McNestry again released the ball much better than usual. McNestry gave one of his best displays, and Tait was a fine assistant. Rennie again fed Turner cleverly, and opened out the game better than any other forward, while Turner, after a moderate hour, did great work in the last half-hour. The team could well be content on taking a point.

There were 4,000 spectators.

M'NESTRY'S SUSPENSION

George M'Nestry, the Luton Town forward, has been suspended for a month by the Football Association as a result of being sent off the field during the match with Coventry City a month ago.