

WATFORD'S LUCK HOLDS LUTON GOAL DISALLOWED: WATFORD'S QUAIN'T EQUALISER

—And a Goal in the Dark

(By Crusader)

WATFORD'S luck in their games with Luton was continued last night at Vicarage-road, for the Herts team won a game in which Luton certainly deserved at least a point. All the good fortune seemed to go Watford's way as usual. They were a goal down, and then the referee decided that Loasby was offside when he had sprinted between the backs, and his goal was discounted. In the second half, in a Watford attack, Imrie was about to punch out a shot when he was violently charged, and the ball dropped into goal. The referee allowed the point, a quaint interpretation of football law, and that was the beginning of the deterioration of Luton. In my opinion, Mr. E. R. Westwood, of Walsall, is in his wrong place in the middle of the field, and this season Luton have suffered from his errors, however much he may desire to be impartial. The Luton players, officials, and supporters were thoroughly discontented—that puts it mildly—with his handling of the game.

FRASER'S BEST.

It was not a particularly bright game in the first half, and in the second, when the wind sprang up and blew strongly right into the Luton goal, play was often very scrappy. Consensus of opinion agreed that the Town deserved their lead at the change of ends, but they fell away badly after Watford had equalised. Now and then there was too much vigour, but it was not vicious, though I thought that the Town defenders were disposed to be too gentle against a player of the type of James, whose speciality when he could not get the ball was to get the man. I have known backs who would never have let him "live" long enough to have charged Imrie so often. One of the reasons Fraser played his best game against Watford was because he used his weight a bit, and did not take all that was coming to him without replying in kind. Not that he was "dirty"; but he just got his shoulders into the business, with the result that he had a much more successful time against Watford's clever right wing than he has ever had before.

McGINNIGLE GREAT

All the Town halves played splendidly, McGinnigle's first half display being simply great, and Kean, who captained the side in the absence of Tom Hodgson, played, as usual, a delightful, intelligent game. Gordon Wilson has never yet played in the first team when they have won, but was not to blame for this defeat. He was as good as Kingham, and kicked and tackled soundly. Had he been a little quicker in "getting in," he would have been as good as anything we have had. Imrie had no chance with the goals, and made good saves. The forwards played well in the first half, but were ragged in the second. Loasby led his line with courage, and gave nice passes, but did not get many back. The left wing was the better, Slicer, well supported by Rennie, giving one of his best exhibitions. The right wing was not so good, but Tait, like Loasby, got a nasty kick in the first five minutes, and that seemed to affect him. Bryce did not do badly at all, but might have had another goal in the first half.

Holland was a capable, but very lucky goalkeeper, and Brown put up a grand game. He is very fast, sure and vigorous. Richards was reliable, Woodward gave a fine exposition as pivot. Chapman and Barnett were the cleverest wing, but James was a thrustful leader, and had much to do with the success.

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SHARP EXCHANGES

Kean lost the toss, but there was no apparent advantage then. The wind did not rise until after the interval. In the first minute Wilson neatly checked Chapman, and in a return visit Stokes shot behind. Kingham cleared the next move, and then Kean sent his wing away, and Bryce swung the ball over to Slicer, but Richards took the centre correctly. Watford pressed a bit, and Kingham and McGinnigle were prominent with good defensive work. Rennie was applauded for a brilliant manoeuvre, but when Loasby tried to bore through the middle Brown curbed him. Kingham restrained the exuberance of the home left wing, and then Bryce took a pass from McGinnigle and swished the ball over to the left. Slicer darted in, but, instead of shooting first time, tried to control and that gave Brown the fraction of time necessary to dispossess him. Bryce again got through, and the linesman flagged for a corner kick, but the referee was not looking that way. McGinnigle made a splendid tackle to dispossess Chapman and Barnett, but Watford returned, and after some sharp exchanges Kean's overhead kick struck Barnes and the ball rebounded over the bar.

BRYCE SCORES

Tait was pulled up by Richards' weight and Watford swooped down again, exciting work taking place in front of the Town goal. The ball came across three or four times, and shots rebounded from defenders, who packed well. Kingham, Kean and McGinnigle did skilful work, and Imrie twice made capital saves. The attack was resumed, and from a centre by Chapman James headed wide. Then it was Luton's turn, and the right wing galloped through. Bryce dribbled round Richards and centred, but Loasby again found an invulnerable barrier. Wilson evoked applause by a dashing clearance, and Fraser carried on with magnificent footwork before turning over to Rennie. The latter slipped the ball out to Slicer, who held it until Brown came in, and then went ahead with Brown at his heels: the winger got in his centre, and BRYCE nipped in and headed into the net. This was after twenty minutes' play, and Watford set about squaring matters. They pressed warmly, and Fraser and Wilson had a hectic but successful dealing with the lively right wing. Imrie had to save two or three times, and there were one or two corners. Suddenly Tait took charge, and went up the middle before pushing the ball forward to Loasby, who went between the backs and shot into the net, but the whistle sounded for offside — a bad decision.

HOLLAND'S SAVE

Wilson was again prominent with fine kicking, and then Slicer slipped the leash and sprinted through, but Tait was beaten by weight when he tried to be a gimlet. A moment later the inside-right made a splendid shot, but Holland was all there, and when Watford swept down Imrie twice caught shots, and then punched out from under the bar. James was spoken to by the referee for fouling the goalkeeper, and at the other end a free kick against Richards for what was not a foul on Bryce was put behind by Kean. Bryce was offside following grand combination by Fraser. Rennie and Slicer, and Richards twice delivered his charge from danger with big kicks. Then Loasby took a pass from the right and beat Brown before passing to Bryce, and the winger had a clear course, but stepped on the ball and came down. McGinnigle made a wonderful run and sent into the goal-mouth; Richards skied the ball, and Holland only just tapped it down; Loasby tried an overhead shot, which sailed over the empty goal. Richards was penalised for upsetting Bryce, and following the free-kick Rennie drove in a mighty shot, Holland making a glorious save at full length at the expense of a corner. From the corner kick Bryce shot high over, and the Town were again on the attack when the interval was signalled.

LUTON 1 goal

WATFORD Nil

Watford restarted with great zeal, but the Town rearguard and McGinnigle were effective. Brown cleared a raid by Rennie and Slicer, and then Fraser got the upper hand of a sharp tussle with Chapman. The home right persisted, and from a corner kick Lowe shot wide. The wind began to upset calculations, and there was some poor kicking before CHAPMAN broke away: he lifted the ball high and as it was dropping under the bar Imrie was about to flit away when James plunged into him, knocking him into the net, and the ball fell over the line. In spite of protests by the players the referee allowed the goal. Watford on good terms came back

to the attack. Lowe put out a pass to the right where Chapman was quite unattended, and he went in to centre, and JAMES was at hand to shoot into the net.

HOLLAND'S LUCK

Fraser was conspicuous with brilliant work, and attack after attack was launched through his efforts, but the Watford backs were good enough, and Holland had not a lot of work. However, Loasby dribbled through and shot unexpectedly for all save Holland, who brought off a great save by diving at full length and turning the ball aside, and Richards booted it out to the left for a fruitless corner. Slicer came into the picture with clever runs and centres, thanks to the nursing by Rennie and Fraser, but Watford defended well. Once Bryce got hold, but delayed his shot, and the ball rebounded to Rennie, who shot first time with all his might, and the ball struck the goalkeeper and nearly knocked him out. The ball was scrambled away to the left, and Slicer got hold and sent it back to drop on the bar, and it bounced over. Once more Slicer raced through and from his centre Tait headed over. Watford then changed the scene, and from a free kick by Ellis, Barnes headed over the Luton bar.

IN THE DARK

It was very difficult to follow play in the last quarter of an hour. The Town had the ball in the home territory for some time, but were not well together forward, and the home halves and backs lost no time in tackling, and invariably kicked half the length of the field in clearing. Bryce and Kean made progress, and Brown saved his goal by splendid anticipation. In vain Loasby and Tait tried to force a way, and then Kean just missed with a great header from a corner kick. Watford took up the running again, and their forwards played nicely together. In one fierce attack the ball came up by way of the right, but it was got away and there seemed no danger, but suddenly a great shout split the darkness, for LOWE had taken a chance long shot, and he hit the ball hard and true. Imrie never saw it until it was past him. The end came with the ball invisible to the occupants of the stand.

WATFORD	3
LUTON TOWN	1

WATFORD :—Holland; Brown, Richards; Stokes, Woodward, Ellis; Chapman, Barnett, James, Lowe, Barnes.

LUTON :—Imrie; Kingham, Wilson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Bryce, Tait, Loasby, Rennie, Slicer.

Referee :—Mr. E. R. Westwood, Walsall.