

COVENTRY CONQUERED

HALF - BACK SUPERIORITY

Gives Luton a Victory

(By CRUSADER.)

CONSIDERING the cup full of misfortune Luton Town have already suffered, their supporters have every reason to be gratified by the results to date. It was a fine achievement to overcome Coventry City so handsomely on Saturday, and can be accounted a better performance than the meritorious win at the expense of Clapton Orient on the previous Monday, though the scores were alike. The greatest fear, of course, was that the absence of Tom Hodgson would so disrupt the defence that the sharpshooters of Coventry would be able to snatch a victory.

SO well did the City open up that the forebodings seemed well-founded, and but for a very stubborn and determined resistance by the Town halves and backs the game might well have gone so much in favour of the visitors in the first twenty minutes that recovery would have been impossible. Once they had found their stride, however, the Town became masters of the situation, and though soon after the change of ends the City found a good deal of work for the Town defence and managed to level the scores, there was distinctly more vitality in the attacks of the Town forwards and halves.

IT can be truly said that within a period of half a minute, McSevich had much more difficult work than Harford had during the run of the game. The goalkeeper, whose Polish name is embellished by the Scottish prefix, rose to the occasion and brought off glorious saves three times in remarkably quick succession. The Town hammered away persistently, and goalkeeper and backs smiled with satisfaction as shots went behind or flag-kicks were cleared again and again, but all stared in amazement when the goal was eventually captured.

IN Coventry City's offices hangs a photograph by the "News" staff photographer recording a wonderful goal scored against the City three or four years ago, when the Town were a goal down. Rennie obtained that, and Allen, the goalkeeper, afterwards told me that it was one of the greatest ever recorded against him. I should say it was eclipsed by that which beat McSevich. The ball came out, headed away after a scrimmage between Tait and the backs; it was met on the drop by RENNIE, who shot with terrific force before the ball struck the ground, and into the net it went like a streak of lightning, while friends and foes stood in astonishment. No goalkeeper could have stopped that ball.

THERE were many assaults by the Town after this, but not another delivery to compare with it. The City backs were overworked at times, but fought back strongly, and now and then the City forwards made a skirmish, but were usually overwhelmed before they could get in a shot. Tait was once fouled when almost under the bar trying to head in a centre from Rowe, while all the halves and forwards made attempts to beat McSevich, but the change of ends found the lead still down to the narrowest margin.

TOWN 1
CITY nil

THOUGH for a little while the Town were the more aggressive side after the restart, they only worked up one really dangerous spasm, and Mills then burst past the defence and shot hard but a trifle too high. The City then opened up desperate efforts to draw level, and a splendid point it was when it came. Several times the crowd grew impatient because the ball was not booted clear, and their anxiety was justified when LAKE seized just outside the penalty area, and worked a tricky maze past a lot of opponents before shooting hard and true past Harford. It was a very fine goal, and evoked a lot of applause.

NEVER again did the City get a chance to do anything as good. The Town returned to their first half virility and pace, and in five minutes they had not only taken the lead, but had virtually made the game safe. The first of these goals came as a result of Tait and Mills combining in an essay, and the latter lifted the ball well over—too far, it seemed; but ROWE was in the right place, and lofted it accurately over the heads of the crowd of players, and the

ball fell just inside the upright. Within a minute, FRASER almost walked the ball past a string of opponents, coming well into the penalty area, and finally shooting a splendid goal right away from McSevich.

THE game had been much more vigorous in the first half, but now developed on very rough lines, and the referee spoke to Bisby, Heinemann and Lake, of the City, and to Mills and Kean of the Town, the ungente stuff coming on this side of the field. It was a pity there was anything like this, for it had been a spirited but fair game before the change of ends. However, the game quietened down considerably afterwards, though the Town held the upper hand always, and were never in danger of losing ground. The seal was put on the victory about ten minutes from the end, when TAIT took a pass from Mills and went through to score a nice goal.

MACKEY did not make a startlingly successful appearance as a full back, but he did very useful work, and one could imagine that with custom and the wisdom of hitting the ball harder when situations were difficult, he would develop into a full back. However, he still needs to put on some pace, and to be a bit sharper in his tackling. Like others, he knows the game, but is disposed to slowness. Kingham played as well as ever, and Harford did not make any mistakes. It was in the middle that the Town's major strength lay. McGinnigle played a magnificent game; never has he played better than now, and although always a very good defensive player, he is improving as a support for the attack. Kean and Fraser also played grandly, and the line took the honours of the match.

HUTCHISON was much more successful than in the four previous games, and looks likely to pay for perseverance. He was quicker on the ball and used it to advantage, often leading astray opponents by his variety of footwork, while he made splendid passes. Rennie was equally good, though he did not hang on quite so much, and Tait was a capital leader, working hard all the time, and giving and taking hard bumps without fuss. Mills also played a fine game, and Rowe, although somewhat subdued, compared with his first appearance in the side, did useful work.

THE City have a well-balanced side; McSevich is a very fine custodian, and nothing better than his first half exhibition could be desired. Every shot that beat him was unstoppable. Bennett was rather overshadowed by Bisby, who had much more work, and got through it with credit, while Davison was a very good pivot, covering a lot of the weakness of his flank halves as well as doing big things in his own position. Bourton had no chance to show his prowess as a marksman, and Lake was the most enterprising of a forward line that began well, but faded away in the face of strenuous opposition.

LUTON TOWN 4
COVENTRY CITY 1

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie, Rowe.

COVENTRY. — McSevich; Bennett, Bisby; Underwood, Davison, Heinemann; Holmes, Thomson, Bourton, Lake, White.

Referee.—Mr. W. Thomas, Walsall.

THE LEAGUE: DIV. III (South)

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Brentford	5	5	0	0	13	7	10
Reading	5	3	0	2	10	3	8
Palace	5	4	1	0	14	5	8
LUTON TOWN	5	3	1	1	12	8	7
Bristol City	5	2	1	2	8	5	6
Bournemouth	5	2	1	2	10	8	6
Brighton	5	3	2	0	7	7	6
Northampton	5	2	2	1	16	9	5
Aldershot	5	2	2	1	8	6	5
Bristol Rovers	5	2	2	1	9	8	5
Norwich	5	2	2	1	9	8	5
Orient	5	1	1	3	7	8	5
Rangers	5	2	2	1	7	8	5
Swindon	5	2	2	1	8	10	5
Torquay	5	1	2	2	13	10	4
Cardiff	5	2	3	0	11	10	4
Exeter	5	2	3	0	9	10	4
Coventry	5	1	3	1	11	12	3
Southend	5	1	3	1	6	15	3
Watford	5	1	3	1	3	10	3
Gillingham	5	1	4	0	2	10	2
Newport	5	0	4	1	1	16	1