

FORWARDS AGAIN FAIL

TEAM SPIRIT LACKING AT BRIGHTON

Hayhurst Does Well

(By Crusader)

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 2
LUTON TOWN 0

BRIGHTON.—Webb; King, Martin; Wilkinson, Mooney, Smith; Thompson, Farrell, Attwood, Walker, Wilson.

LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Mackey; Nelson, Hayhurst, Fraser; Mills, Kean, Tait, Rennie, Rowe.

Referee: Mr. R. G. Rudd, Kenton.

SENDING through the report to the "Telegraph" on Saturday I said that the Brighton people did not seem very confident about the result. After the match there was a good deal of jubilation among the small crowd, for they had an unexpected pleasure. Indeed, the only people who did not appear to be confident about the result going in favour of Luton were the Town team themselves, and some of Brighton's young men. We thought that our team had been changed about a good deal, but that was not expedient. Brighton, on the other hand, had so many players on the injured list that they had to rely on two backs who were named to play with the second string at Luton; to bring in a forward at left half, and in addition to two reserve forwards had an outside right playing in an inside position. Allowing for the possible weakening of the Town team through the changes, there still seemed every reason to believe that they would record their first win away from home. They failed, and I think that the Albion deserved their success.

HOPE NOT REALISED

LUTON were the cleverer side, and several spectators told me afterwards that the match had been one of the best they had seen this season at Brighton from the standpoint of skilful football. Again the trouble with the Town was in attack—weak marksmanship. It could be truly said that there was not a real marksman in the front rank. The inclusion of Fred Kean gave a lot of hope that he would infuse the dash that has been lacking so consistently. He did not want to play there, but took over the job. He was not a success, but certainly played as well as any other forward. I do not think he will play there again. The game generally was clean and well conducted, but the home team throughout seemed to possess a lot more fire and stamina, and especially in the forward line, and for that reason collected the spoils.

DID NOT WORRY WEBB

THE Albion moved to the attack very speedily in the first minute, and Imrie was applauded for a magnificent save from a header when little Farrell looked certain to score from a centre by Wilson. At the other end Webb's luck was in when he just managed to touch a hard shot from Tait as the ball came under the bar; it rose and struck the face of the bar, bouncing away, and Mills ran in and lifted it over. For some time the Albion had the better of the game, and Kingham and Mackey put in splendid work in the goal area, their headwork being remarkably good. It was a rather long time before the Town became as dangerous as the Albion, but there was a neatness in their approach work that caused a few flutters. The trouble was that they would not try a shot from any distance, but wanted to run right into the goal-mouth, and though the big backs were somewhat crude, they never stood on ceremony, but kicked and tackled and charged with resolution, so that Webb had very little to worry about.

PENALTY MISS

NELSON could not get the hang of things for some time, and it was during his bad spell that Wilson made the most of things. He was very speedy, and usually had a lot of space. On the other flank Thompson had the pace, and gave Fraser a lot to think about, but had not so much rope as Wilson, and the latter caused most of the anxiety for Imrie. The goalkeeper saved finely on several occasions, but eventually Wilson found himself with an acre of ground in which to work, and was going full tilt for goal when Nelson brought him down, and a penalty kick was the only just award. Attwood took the kick, and for such a well-known marksman it must have been unsettling to hear the remarks of the crowd, that he would "put the ball over the top" or send it "to the corner flag." The latter opinion was nearly justified, for his shot went yards wide. The Town went into their

business with rare zest after this escape, but Mooney fell back and assisted the backs out of many a tight corner. Kean did a lot of cute initiation, and many corners were forced, but without avail.

TOWN BETTER

HAYHURST was noticeable for swinging passes to the wings, and Rowe had a good deal of the ball, and responded nicely. The Town had the better of the exchanges in the last fifteen minutes before the change of ends, but, however close, would not shoot. Rowe once gave Tait a beautiful pass, and he persisted in hanging on until within three yards of goal, and then was dispossessed at the expense of a corner. In one fierce attack there were several shots, and Nelson and Rennie had hard drives rebound from a packed goal, while Mills sent over several very fine centres, only to see the tall Mooney and the lengthy King interpose with a head, or for Webb to punch away. The Town should have taken the lead during this hot period for the home defence, and would have done so had they been less chary about taking a shot. The interval came:

ALBION Nil
TOWN Nil

SO well had the Town been playing in the later stages of the first half that the small Luton party had very good ground for hope that they would see the first away success. For a couple of minutes after the resumption they attacked, and then had a severe jolt. While the Town were pressing a big clearance by Mooney found Attwood all alone beyond the halfway line. He went away at top speed, and Mackey chased him out to the left wing. It seemed likely that the move would fail, but he worked inside and then screwed the ball to Wilson, who had followed up the left winger might have had a shot, but lifted the ball gently over to the other side of the goal, and WALKER, who had come up on the inside, headed a nice goal. So strongly did the Town respond that there were prospects of an equalising goal, but the ball was hugged so persistently, and there was so much dribbling about and hanging on that Webb was rarely tested.

ISSUE DECIDED

THE Albion backs and halves defended with grim vigour, and the close work of the Town forwards suited them admirably. For a long time play was in the Albion half, and though their forwards had the ball at times, the danger from them was generally by raids, and there was not much in the way of a sustained attack. Once Kean made a brilliant effort, taking the ball past man after man, and then firing in a grand shot which Webb just managed to tip out to the left, and when Rowe returned it the goalkeeper just managed to tip out to the left, and when Rowe returned it the goalkeeper grabbed it again and cleared. Fraser and Nelson did clever work in sending the forwards through, and two or three times Tait, put through by Rennie, made a rush for goal, but would not shoot from any distance, and the home backs tumbled into him when he was close in. The issue was decided when there remained fifteen minutes for play. Another long kick up the field found ATTWOOD with an open field save for Mackey, who had been limping for some time, and the Albion centre-forward went along to beat the full back and work into position from which he could score with a well-placed shot. The Town had the better of the mid-field play, but Rennie was the only player to attempt shots, and he was hopelessly off the mark. Right on time Mills received after bright work by Hayhurst, and cut in to make the best shot of the afternoon; Webb was well beaten, but the ball hit the upright and ran across the goal-line to be booted away. It was said afterwards by the Town players that the ball actually crossed the line. Mills was hurt, and had to be carried off, but the whistle sounded almost immediately.

FORWARDS FAIL

INDIVIDUALLY the Town were quite as good as the Albion, but had not the team spirit of the winners. The worst deficiency, however, was that which has marked the team in almost every game this season—wretched marksmanship. We can discount the Cardiff match, for the opposition was very moderate, and even then the goals came from close quarters. One longed to see

a shot such as Arthur Wileman or Ernest Simms would let loose from anywhere within the penalty area, but time after time the ball was held and held until a desperate charge or tackle spoiled the chance. I don't think there has ever been a Luton forward line that did less shooting or did it so badly—certainly not in my time. It is all so woeful, because the midfield play is invariably enough to beat any half-back line. The match put an end to any idea that Fred Kean should be a forward, though he played nearly as well as any. Mills was probably the most successful, but neither Tait nor Rennie could get on the mark, though both gave nice passes, and Rowe certainly played better.

HAYHURST'S PROMISE

HAYHURST fulfilled the promise he has shown with the Reserves. I do not think he is so good a defensive half-back as McGinnigle, but he often sent his forwards away with long passes to the flanks. Now and then he overkicked his inside forwards, but on the whole his work justified the view that he is going to be a very fine pivot. Nelson was a little time in settling down, but afterwards some of his work was of a really high order. He has better constructive ideas than many halves, but his defensive work was not quite up to standard, hence the danger of Wilson. Fraser was the cleverest half-back on the field, though he had rather more than he could manage in the early stages, for Farrell was very enthusiastic and Thompson had great speed. Kingham and Mackey both did very well until the latter was crooked in the second half, while Imrie did his part in praiseworthy manner.

ALBION

THE Albion goalkeeper had not a lot of work, but his backs played a strong and confident game. They were rather crude in tackling, but took man or ball, whichever offered the better chance of success, and never hesitated about clearing their lines. Mooney was a capable pivot, and Wilkinson also did very well, while the forward line, thanks to the use made of the wingers, proved dangerous whenever on the move. Wilson was the best.

There were 3,400 spectators.