

LUTON'S AMAZING WIN

Knock-out of 'Spurs no fluke : Crowd Storm Pitch

By GEOFFREY SIMPSON

LUTON...2

TOTTENHAM H...0 (Attendance 17,213)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR will blame a pitch hardened as to stone and covered with frozen ridges of earth for their astonishing knock-out at Luton, and it is a fact that the side was quite incapable of acting upon it.

But with the presumption that a different story might have been written on soft turf, any defence of the 'Spurs closes.

They were beaten thoroughly and convincingly by a team who, on the day, were their masters in most phases. And who knows but what Luton might have pulled out something better still in more favourable conditions?

PITCH INVADED

The last few minutes were played to a deafening roar of cheers. Hundreds of excited spectators had scaled the barriers ready to invade the pitch, and the final whistle was the signal for a headlong rush for the players.

The Luton men were mobbed and police had to rush on to the field to rescue them. Kean, the captain, engaged in his hardest tussle of the day to stop the crowd "chairing" him round the ground.

Defeat was staring Tottenham in the face in nine minutes, when Alderson, taking a well-placed centre from Mills, beat Nicholls with a glorious drive to the corner. A great goal this, with the 'Spurs defence hopelessly beaten by the speedy wing play of Luton.

That wide-flung game of Luton's was the explanation of their success. 'Spurs tried to roll the ball about in close passing attacks, and—well, the ball just would not roll truly over the ridges and bumps. And with Luton swinging it about the ball bounced so high from the frozen ground that the Hotspur had a thankless task in trying to keep it down.

It was rather a shock to find Tottenham without ability to change their methods to suit the conditions. Luton, by comparison, were expert at taking a dropping ball. The wing men especially seemed quite at ease with a hard pass which came head or breast high, whereas Evans or Howe wanted so much time to bring a ball of this sort under control that they

were generally beaten by the half-back's swift tackle.

Evans had a bad match; so did Hall. If medals were being awarded for notable performances Kean and Kingham would be first on the list for their complete subjection of the 'Spurs left wing. The old Sheffield Wednesday half-back gave nothing away, but even he was outshone by Kingham, who on this display is one of the best backs in the game.

Kingham's interception was first class, but he intercepted nothing better than a scoring shot by Hall. Kingham went to his knees on the goal-line and took the ball on his chest to make a remarkable save.

O'Callaghan once blazed a shot on to the bar, but these were about the only occasions when the 'Spurs looked like

staging a recovery.

Hunt worked himself to a standstill, but never found a real shooting chance, so good were the Luton backs. McGinnigle, too, did valiant work at centre half. The 'Spurs inside forwards have rarely been made to appear so moderate.

The Tottenham defenders played well, though they did not relish the high bounce of the ball. The ball actually shot over

before the first goal, and the bounce was again unkind to the centre half when he was trying to clear a long punt down the middle. Before he could gain control Tait tore in and forced the ball in the net.

That was after 21 minutes, and though after the interval Tottenham, playing downhill, attacked well enough to promise a revival, they faded away in the face of relentless tackling by powerful half-backs.

Luton Town.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Nelson, Tait, Alderson, Roberts.

Tottenham Hotspur.—Nicholls; Felton, Whatley; Colquhoun, Levene, Meads; Howe, O'Callaghan, Hunt, Hall, Evans.



ALDERSON.

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