

O'CALLAGHAN (Tottenham), on the left, in a tussle for the ball at Luton.



LUTON KEEP THEIR BALANCE AND SPURS PASS OUT

Luton 2, Tottenham Hotspur 0

LUTON made new Cup history in reaching the Fifth Round for the first time, and in beating Tottenham so convincingly, recorded the finest victory achieved by the club.

The Bedfordshire team are four points better off than the last two in the Southern Section of the League, their form this season being very poor, yet they produced football of the highest standard against the Spurs, favourites for promotion to the First League.

It was a tactical victory they gained, but they are to be congratulated on their ability to carry out to the letter their plan of campaign. That was to kick the ball before it hit the ground.

On such a rock-like pitch it was almost impossible to trap the ball, and when it hit the ground it would more often than not bounce tantalisingly the wrong way. The Luton style of play might be termed kick and rush, but it was methodical, and by shooting at every opportunity there was the chance of surprising Nicholls.

Made by Mills

They won the game in 20 minutes, and both goals were snap shots that left Nicholls helpless to reach them, for on both occasions his colleagues in front of him blundered. The first goal, after eight minutes, came from a perfect centre by Mills.

The Tottenham defenders hesitated and Alderson took advantage of their slowness of thought and action to slip through and place the ball to the best advantage right of Nicholls into the left corner of the net. It was Mills again who supplied the pass for the second.

On this occasion it was Levene who blundered. He got to the ball first, but miskicked and let Tait through for an easy shot. Luton had many other opportunities for their wingers were given more scope than Howe or Evans.

There was no dillying; straight back into the centre the ball would go to the inside forwards, and with Levene helpless to stop them Nicholls and his backs did well to keep the score down to two goals. For some time in the second half the Spurs seemed to be gaining the mastery.

They made many of those raids for which they are famous, O'Callaghan using all his skill and strategy to make them effective. They were dangerous up to a point, but they could never master Kingham and Mackey, which left Harford with an easy job between the posts. Only from corner-kicks and scrummages was Harford in action. Not once did I see him save a shot.

Kingham's Restraint

The only occasion when his charge would have fallen he was out of goal. Kingham fell back to take his place and when the ball came flying at him through a crowd of players he showed wise restraint.

The temptation to handle must have been great. He resisted it, bunched his muscles, and took the ball full in the stomach. Kingham and Mackey never put a foot wrong; fine work on such a frozen pitch. McGinnigle held Hunt and Fraser rarely let Howe through, but it was Keen, the Luton captain, who took the half-back honours of the game.

Cool and confident all through, and supplying the right pass to make Mills and Nelson the more dangerous wing, Fraser fed his wing judiciously, but was harder worked in trying to stop the elusive O'Callaghan. Roberts got his opportunities, but was up against two steady players in Colquhoun and Felton.

Levene was definitely weak, but improved in the second half, and often was up field assisting the attack. Luton seemed to be better shod than the Spurs. At any rate, they kept their feet better, and being able to play their natural game, reaped the advantage.

C. A. HUGHES.