

AFTER FIVE WEEKS

LUTON SHOW HOW TO WIN

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN gave their supporters good heart for the task that awaits them in the North forty-eight hours hence. The victory over EXETER CITY was their second best, probably their best, in the League tourney this season, for it must be remembered that Cardiff City, when they were beaten by eight goals to one at Luton, had not their strongest eleven. On Saturday, Exeter had not their best, for they were without their centre-half, Childs, but Angus has always been regarded as a fine deputy, and certainly played as well as either of his colleagues in the middle line.

Truth was, the Town were in real match-winning form, and, if all the players were not of equality, they were all imbued with the same fine spirit and confidence; they played to each other; there was plenty of determination in every department, and the speed and skill of their thrusts were too much for the visiting defensive lines, bravely though they stood up to their gruelling ordeal. Against less capable men the Town would have had a record score, so well did they play. The City were not lacking in dash and courage, and it was not until the Town held a lead of three goals that there was any justification for slackening the pace at all.

Davies and his backs got through an immense amount of work before their colours were lowered. Corners had been forced with almost monotonous regularity, and time after time the goal was within an ace of falling. When success came to ALDERSON thirty-five minutes had elapsed. Alderson picked up a centre from the right, and, though dispossessed at first, recovered the ball and darted in to shoot true as Davies made a despairing effort to intercept him. It was a goal well earned, though there was nothing very brilliant in the actual scoring.

Harford had one teaser to save during this half, and that came before Luton had scored, when Scott got away and banged the ball hard across. The Town goalkeeper could only thrust up his hands, and he was glad to see the ball sail out to the left, and, though returned, it was not so dangerous. On the other hand, the Town forwards often went close with shots and headers, and many corner kicks were dropped into the goal area, to keep the City backs and halves very busy. Gray especially played a fine game in this half, his kicking and tackling being very exceptionally true, and he did much to nullify the sting of the Luton attack.

In the second half play was much the same, the Town having by far the better of the exchanges, and Davies made many saves before his goal fell again. This was the reward of a good deal of clever play on the left, and when Tait and Alderson broke through the latter middled the ball so well that MILLS had but to

put himself in the way, and the ball was bound to go into the net. Two minutes after that Fraser served up a swinging pass from the left wing, and TAIT hurried through the defence and turned the ball past Davies as the custodian ran out.

The last goal came with virtually the last kick of the game. TAIT snapped up a loose ball and went between the backs, almost into the jaws of goal, and then neatly slipped the ball past Davies as he came out. The whistle went as soon as the ball had been kicked off again. Before that last goal Harford had to make a very good save to prevent Whitlow getting a goal, and a splendid drive by the leading goal scorer of the Division was only saved at the second attempt, the pace carrying the ball out of Harford's hands, but he was quick to regain control and clear.

All the Town played very well indeed, and they were so well on top that the thrills were few and far between, fast though the game. Indeed, it was often one-sided, as far as attack could be reckoned, for, try as they would, the City forwards could not break through a stout defence, in which Kingham and Mackey were so safe that Harford had almost a holiday. The halves, however, took chief honours, for they were masters of the situation, playing great football in every way. All three were on their best form, and the forwards did well to a man, with Nelson and Alderson, perhaps, the most noticeable.

LUTON TOWN 4
EXETER CITY Nil

LUTON TOWN.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Nelson, Tait, Alderson, Roberts.
EXETER CITY.—Davies; Gray, Hughes; Clarke, Angus, Barber; Scott, Kennedy, Whitlow, Houghton, Higgins.
Referee.—Mr. W. E. Russell, Swindon.

THE LEAGUE: DIV. III. (South).

	P.	W.	L.	D.	F.	A.	P.
Brentford	26	17	4	5	56	30	39
Norwich	28	14	4	10	55	38	38
Exeter	27	16	6	5	64	34	37
Reading	26	14	4	8	74	43	36
Palace	28	12	9	7	52	44	31
Brighton	27	13	10	4	43	45	30
Coventry	28	13	12	3	71	54	29
Southend	28	11	10	7	48	55	29
Northampton	27	11	10	6	55	39	28
Bournemouth	29	9	10	10	48	57	28
Rangers	27	10	11	6	54	53	26
Bristol Rovers	26	10	10	6	43	43	26
Watford	28	10	12	6	45	47	26
Gillingham	27	11	13	3	43	42	25
Aldershot	27	10	12	5	44	51	25
LUTON TOWN	26	9	11	6	51	51	24
Torquay	27	8	12	7	49	53	23
Bristol City	27	8	13	6	54	61	22
Orient	28	6	12	10	44	63	22
Cardiff	27	7	15	5	42	67	19
Newport	30	6	17	7	38	78	19
Swindon	26	7	15	4	46	76	18