

TACTICAL ERROR

THE WEATHER'S BIG PART IN LUTON'S WIN

STRONG DEFENDERS

By Phœnician

Halifax Town 0 Luton Town 2

FAILING to utilise the great advantage gained through winning the toss on a day when weather conditions were such that they played a leading part in the game, Halifax Town were guilty of a tactical error which lost them their place in the Cup.

When Thompson won the toss, one naturally expected to see him seek the aid of a rather strong wind which looked ominous enough to predict wilder elements. Probably Halifax had the matter weighed up, but they were just a little out in their calculations, for the storm developed before half-time and subsided afterwards.

Thus Luton were given full use of the weather. They snatched this advantage with outstretched arms and thankful hearts, using it to such good effect that they won with something to spare. Weather was the dominating factor, and one can tell how severe it was from the fact that 25 minutes after the start the referee had to stop play for nearly half an hour. Snow fell with such force during this period that the ground was completely covered, and groundsmen had to sweep it off the lines before the match could be restarted.

Before this, however, Luton had taken the lead through a goal by Tait. After half-time it was evident that the Halifax players had realised their mistake, and to me it appeared that their play suffered as a result.

LUTON INSPIRED

They had had a trying time in the first half when keeping the Luton forwards at bay, and when they did have the assistance of the wind—not half so strong as it had been—they were much too tired to use it to any telling purpose. On the other hand, Luton were inspired by their lead. They fought like tigers, and although Halifax made several dashing raids, it was not at all surprising to see Luton go further ahead. This was the final blow to Halifax. They never recovered, and Luton might easily have scored more.

Luton were infinitely the better side, without showing any really good football. They had a splendid defence, which exploited first-time tactics, and a half-back line that never played about with the ball, but put it forward on every possible occasion. Thus Halifax were never allowed to settle down, although Davies and Chambers always needed careful watching.

Luton's main strength was in defence, where Kingham, Mackey and McGinnigle were outstanding. These players received splendid assistance from the forwards, who, without being conspicuous with any clever combination, were a thrustful lot, always strong enough to gain the better of an overworked Halifax defence, in which Barrie was about the best.

Halifax: Shirlaw; Barrie, Flack; Thompson, Cralg, Parkin; Davies, Brown, Chambers, Wellock, Tunstall.

Luton: Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Keen, McGinnigle, Fraser; Nelson, Tait, Rennie, Alderson, Roberts.