

READING'S

LUTON FORWARDS FAIL TO TAKE CHANCES

(By Crusader)

LUTON TOWN dropped yet another point at home on Saturday, when they could only effect a draw with READING. The visitors had still a chance for promotion, and it was expected that they would put up a strong game, but they were outclassed in every phase except finishing quality, where they had little chance, and the Town forwards were so bad that comparison was impossible. Probably if Reading had been blessed by half the opportunities that were given to Luton they would have won, for the home side should have won by a big score, judging on the balance of play.

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RENNIE, who led the Town forwards again, scored the only goal of the first half with a nice header from a centre by Mills, but so persistent was the pressure on the Reading goal that there should have been something like half-a-dozen goals to the credit of the Town before the change of ends. The middle line and the rearguard of the Town monopolised the game almost from the start, and their support of the forwards was brilliant, the passes being on the ground, and made after defenders had been drawn from position, but all to no purpose.

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GAMBLE, Reading's new centre-forward from Aldershot, made desperate attempts when he got the chance, which was seldom, and he was so well watched that he could make little progress against McGinnigle, or against the Town backs when he was out of reach of the centre-half. He it was that scored the equalising goal, however, for the Reading right winger, Ritchie, made a fine solo dribble and then gave Gamble an easy chance, which he accepted.

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THERE were just over 6,000 spectators, and they gave vent to their disappointment in no uncertain fashion. Allowing for a tricky ground and the light ball, the Town had so much the better of the play that their failure to win was inexcusable. Harford did his part well, but nearly half an hour elapsed before he was called upon to save, and then there was nothing difficult. Indeed, he

had not one difficult shot to stop during the match. Kingham was fair, but Mackey was exceptionally strong, and played right up to his best form of the Cup-ties.

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THE Town halves all played magnificent football. Kean and Fraser were delightful in their tackling, and better still in the support they gave to the forwards. Now and then, especially in the second half, they also joined in the general attack and had shots at goal, but Mellors was not beaten. McGinnigle had one of his best days, and the line as a whole has never played better.

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OF the forwards it may be said that in approach they were good enough for any side, for they could hardly help doing well with such splendid service from the rear. All their moves were nullified, however, because their marksmanship was wretched, and there seemed to be a complete absence of thrust and energy. Mills and Roberts did a few good things at intervals, but the inside forwards could not utilise the chances. Hutchison was very clever, but seemed to lack that extra nip that means so much at close quarters. Neither Rennie nor Alderson played half as well as their average game.

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READING were very fortunate, for if the Town were poor, what could be said of a team fighting for promotion and yet so badly outplayed? Mellors made a few good saves, but he should have been beaten time and again. Rowe and Richardson worked hard and successfully, and the same may be said of the middle men, but they were kept on the defensive to such a degree that their front line rarely got a pass from which profit could accrue.

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LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Hutchison, Rennie, Alderson, Roberts.

READING.—Mellors; Rowe, Richardson; Johnson, Allan, Barley; Ritchie, Eaton, Gamble, Oxberry, Chandler.

Referee: Mr. J. M. Wiltshire, Sherborne.