

BLACKMAN'S BRACE

BEATS LUTON TOWN AT WHITE CITY

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN failed to repeat their success over QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS when they visited the White City for the return match on Saturday. The teams were the same save for the Rangers' left wing, where Brown moved to the extreme position and Jones resumed at inside left. For quite an hour the Town reproduced a similar superiority to that shown in the game at Luton on the previous Tuesday, though they were not so successful in front of goal. They did take the lead seven minutes after the interval, and there had been nothing in the play of the Rangers to suggest that the Town would fail, but fail they did, and were about as surprised themselves as were their few followers.

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There was no goal in the first half, but the Town showed the more skill, and the chances that came their way were about three to two. A magnificent save by Beecham from Mills, and a miss by Rowe after he and Rennie had beaten the defence, were the main troubles from which the Rangers escaped. At the other end there was an occasion when the Rangers' forwards hustled through in a mass, and Brown had only Imrie to beat, but he shot wide. There was much to like about the combination of the Town in the first half, and behind them the halves and backs were as safe as could be desired, and gave very little anxiety.

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Soon after the re-start the Rangers' goal had miraculous escapes. There was a storming assault in which the Rangers' defenders were well beaten by skilful passing, but somehow the ball would hit opponents and rebound. Eventually Rennie fastened on it and then drove in a beautiful shot all along the ground, the pace completely beating Beecham, who dived at full length, but before he got to the ground the ball had hit the post and come back. Rowe raced in as Beecham resumed position,

and the outside-left shot past the goalkeeper, but the ball hit the other post, and came out, and was then scrambled away. However, a similar attack brought the first goal, and HUTCHISON was the actual scorer, although there had been two or three quick shaves before the scoring shot, which the goalkeeper tried to divert with his foot—his only chance—and the ball flew off it into the net.

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For some time the Town threatened to increase the lead, but there was some hesitation when the forwards got to close quarters. Then the Rangers played desperately, and by dint of big kicking by the backs and halves they kept the Town defenders busy and somewhat worried, for the Rangers' forwards chased the ball every time, and tackled the Town backs strenuously. Kingham and Mackey played very well, but following a corner BLACKMAN equalised with a splendid header. For the next fifteen minutes the Rangers had the Town defenders on the run, and when Wiles got the better of Fraser and Mackey and passed back to BLACKMAN the latter scored with a clinking shot. The third goal was a gift, for Imrie misjudged a long kick from the wing by MARCROFT, and the ball struck the upright and went into the net.

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Kingham and Mackey did very well in defence, and the halves also played finely until their bad period midway through the second half. The forwards were much cleverer than the Rangers' front line, but while there was a lot of skill in their approach, there was a lack of punch in front of goal, or several goals would have been scored.

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LUTON TOWN 1

RANGERS: Beecham; Barrie, Hall; Adam, Armstrong, Goodier; Marcroft, Blackman, Wiles, Jones, Brown.

LUTON: Imrie; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Tait, Rennie, Hutchison, Rowe.

Referee: Mr. W. E. Russell, Swindon.