

RANGERS' REVENGE

LUTON TOWN FAIL AT THE WHITE CITY

Late Goals

(By Crusader)

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS ... 3
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.

TO explain why the Town lost at the White City on Saturday is a difficult business. That they were the better football side was quite clear for upwards of an hour. They held the lead, and did not look like losing it, but then the Rangers began to put even more vigour into their big kicking and their rushes, and the Town middle line seemed to wilt in face of the extra pressure, and the rearguard broke down to some extent. With a little more fire in the attack, however, there would have been more goals for the Town than for the Rangers. Only at rare intervals did the Rangers' attack compare with the Town's in the matter of combination, but what they lacked in that phase they made up in dash and energy, and it was this and the faltering in the Town defence that gave them the victory.

EARLY THRILL

The first half was in favour of the Town. They might well have had a goal before half the Rangers had touched the ball, for Rennie was responsible for a clever bit of work in midfield, as a result of which the ball was swung out for Mills to dash past Hall, but when he was clear he shot tamely and the ball simply hit the side net. Just afterwards there was a repeat movement, and Hutchison swept the ball to the right, and Tait sent it forward for Mills to bang it right across goal, but Barrie managed to get in the way. Mackey soon dealt with the Rangers' rush, and from a corner which Barrie was glad to give to hold up the left wing the home right back again saved his side by leaping high to head away the flag kick. A run by the Rangers' right brought a corner off Mackey, and Marcroft put in a very fine flag kick, and Jones seemed likely to score as he dashed in, but Kingham managed to get there first, and the forward crashed past him and collided heavily with the upright. He had to be taken beyond the touch-line for repairs, but he was not away long.

BROWN'S SAVE

Imrie had a shot or two to handle, but there was nothing thrilling about them, and the Town began to open out the game to good purpose. The combination was very fine, and Hutchison was able to outwit opponents every time he got the ball under control. Still, there was something lacking about the attacks; and the Town did not seem to be able to finish strongly, although nearly all the forwards had shots. The best effort during the first half-hour was made by Mills, who dashed in to meet a centre from Rowe; he shot without hesitation while the ball was on the move, and we all thought he had netted, but Hall managed to cover the line and the ball went behind. Several corners were conceded by the Rangers, but their defenders were big enough to forestall the Town forwards when the flag kicks came in front of goal, and eventually the Rangers made a series of assaults. Imrie was kept busy, and twice it seemed as if his goal would fall, but Brown chipped in finely and kicked the ball away from Wiles' boots as he was on the point of shooting, and at the second attempt just afterwards Wiles shot behind.

PILL FOR BEECHAM

There was another brilliant effort by Mills at the other end when Rowe and Hutchison broke through and the extreme winger lifted the ball right across; Mills pounced and shot without waiting to stop the ball, and a goal seemed a certainty, but Beecham made a splendid dive and just managed to tip the ball round the post for a fruitless corner. When the Rangers got back again Wiles made a couple of tries, but each time from long range the ball cleared the cross-bar. All the Town forwards had a turn, but there was not enough punch at close quarters. There was a narrow escape at each end. First Rowe and Rennie beat the opposition very neatly after combination by Tait and Hutchison, and Rowe was left with a good chance, but he preferred to pass to Rennie and wrongly directed the ball. Had he himself shot he could hardly have missed. At the other end the Rangers' forwards bunched just inside the penalty area, and literally forced a way through, and Brown rushed right into the goal-mouth, only to send the ball yards wide when Imrie ran out to meet him. The Town, on the run of the game, should have been leading at the change of ends.

RANGERS Nil
TOWN Nil

After a quick exchange of play the Town set up a warm attack, and there was some very clever forward play in

which Hutchison was prominent, and then Tait sent the ball through for Rennie to drive in a magnificent shot which rattled the foot of the upright. Beecham being at full length on the ground; Rowe nipped in and shot well, and Beecham, who had hurriedly got into position again, was well beaten, but the ball went right across and hit the farther post to rebound and be cleared. The Rangers then took up the running, and Imrie had to save quickly from Jones, who drove in hard and low from fifteen yards' range. The Rangers' halves were again nonplussed by the swift and accurate exchange of passes by the Town forwards, and the movement culminated in a fusillade of shots which struck a barrier of defenders, but HUTCHISON eventually got tremendous power behind a shot, and although Beecham thrust out a foot as he was getting back into position after having saved, he could not keep the ball out of the net.

BLACKMAN EQUALISES

For some minutes the Rangers had all their work cut out to keep the Town from adding to the score, but they held out, and the ball was taken to the other end, Marcroft and Blackman giving trouble. The big kicking and fast following up of the Rangers gave some anxiety to the Town defence, but Kingham and Mackey stood up to their work finely, and Imrie had not much to do. However, a good attempt at combination by the Rangers' three inside forwards took the ball well up, and after a scramble a corner was forced. Marcroft placed the ball well, and Imrie made no attempt to come out for a high ball, and BLACKMAN, using someone's shoulders as a lever, jumped high and headed the ball into the net. The Town did not get over this shock very easily, and the Rangers, having tasted blood, went into their work with more vigour than ever. There was a little kicking incident between Blackman, who was not always scrupulous, and Brown, but this escaped the attention of the referee.

TWO ERRORS

The Town rearguard behaved well under a long spell of pressure, and the halves seemed to have fallen off a lot. The Town forwards were in the picture at rare periods, and their work was half-hearted. Ten minutes remained for play when the Rangers' right wing came down, and Wiles seized a pass, and Mackey and Fraser seemed to leave each other to do the tackling, with the result that the centre-forward was able to get past them, and, being at an awkward angle, he turned the ball back to BLACKMAN, who made the most of a simple chance by crashing the ball hard into the net. Had the Town forwards been more eager they might have drawn level again, but there was a lot of hesitation when the Rangers went in to tackle, and chances were lost. Once Mills headed wide from a splendid free kick by Mackey, and then Rowe shot outside when he had a chance. Rennie tried to find the target, but the defenders packed well. A burst by the Rangers' right brought a third goal. MARCROFT received, and from the touch-line he sent in a high shot; Imrie evidently thought the ball was going out, and was late in his attempt to reach the ball, with the result that he missed it and it struck the post and glanced into the net. The Town made one or two strong efforts, but they were poor in finishing, and the game ended with the Rangers deserving to win because they had put in the extra bit of dash that the Town could not muster.

PLAYERS

One goal at least Imrie should have saved. I think he might have come out and punched away the flag-kick from which the equalising goal was scored, but the play was so far away from the Press-box that it might be unjust to tab him with fault. Still, he should have prevented the third goal. Both Kingham and Mackey played finely, the latter especially, though he was perhaps a little to blame when the second goal was scored. Still, he was in great form, and gave a high-class exhibition in the first half. Kingham also had a good deal to do, and acquitted himself well. The halves played well, save for the falling off after the Rangers had scored. Brown was very nearly the best half on the field, while Fraser and McGinnigle won a lot of praise. The forwards should have done much better. Rennie did not have many chances, for though he gave out nice passes, he did not get many in return. His shooting was not so good as usual. Hutchison was about the pick of the line, and did many bright things, often joining with Tait in clever work. The latter was not so thrustful as usual, though at times he paved the way for attacks by bright passing. Mills and Rowe were not consistent, for they did not finish off well many promising movements.

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For the Rangers, Beecham was a good goalkeeper, and his rugged backs left nothing to chance. The halves were lusty kickers and resolute tacklers, and of the forwards Marcioft and Blackman were the pick.

There were four thousand spectators.