

CARDIFF CITY CONQUERED

THREE GOALS FOR LUTON'S RE-ARRANGED ATTACK

Mackey's Great Defence

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 3
CARDIFF CITY 1
LUTON: Harford; Mackey, Reece; Brown, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pease, Martin, Rennie, Hutchinson, Pearson.
CARDIFF: Adams; Calder, Russell; Malmend, Galbraith, Duthie; Marcroft, Jones, West, Curtis, Hutchinson.
Referee: Mr. E. R. Westwood, Walsall.

CARDIFF CITY opened the match at LUTON like a team at the top of the League instead of being close to the foot. Throughout the game they kept that spirit and high standard of play, and on their exhibition it is difficult to understand why they should be so lowly placed. Possibly the recent changes have improved the side a good deal, and if they maintain the quality they should soon be rising in the competition. It was a clean and interesting struggle, and although the Town were the better side, and quite deserved their success once they had got together, they had not a lot to spare at the end. There was more team work and better understanding all round, than was shown at Exeter, and if the attack were not all that could be desired, there was undoubtedly a neater effect and a better appreciation of the support from the rear. This was not immediately felt, but came gradually, and the second half was better than the first.

CITY'S GOOD START

As with so many opposing sides, the visitors made the pace, and the Town defenders had to be alert and energetic in the first five minutes. Their speed and open play kept the middle men on the run, and good centres were sent over from either wing, so that the Town halves and backs were using their heads a lot. The City halves lost no time in returning the ball before the Town forwards could make use of it, and it required a few reminders from the crowd before the home team began to assert themselves properly. There was a spice of danger for the City when the Town right got away, and Pease snapped up a pass from Rennie and tore in, but he could not control the ball at the critical moment, and his shot struck the side net. Mackey was prominent in forcing the play to the City end, and the City defence was hard pressed. Fouls of a mild character held up the attack, and the free kicks gave trouble, while twice there were loud appeals for penalty kicks. Once Russell very heavily brought down Martin within a foot or two of the penalty area, but the free-kick could have been better used.

ADAMS ALIVE

The ground was very hard, though not so difficult or so dangerous as was expected, and numerous passes went astray because the pace of the ball could not be judged. A good shot by Martin struck the side-net, and Pease failed to get hold properly when Hutchinson swung out to the right and gave the winger a clear run-in to the goalmouth. He might have fired sooner with better result. There was a cheer for Rennie when he hooked down a centre that was shoulder high, and, turning quickly, shot splendidly, but Adams was fully alive to the situation, and made a very fine save by tipping the ball over the bar. The Town's middle men were getting a grip of the game, and had a lot to do with the attacks. Had Pearson made the short and straight course for goal on several occasions, there would have been a lot more trouble for Adams, but his manoeuvring enabled the City defenders to recover, and when he was robbed the ball went back to the other end very quickly.

ONE TO RENNIE

A persistent attack, which was just as stolidly opposed, eventually succeeded. The Town forwards and halves kept play in the City penalty area, and, following sharp exchanges very close in, the ball went to RENNIE, who lost no time in accepting an easy chance. There was hot work in front of the City goal for some minutes after this, but then the City had a turn, and their quickness on the ball, particularly by the wingers, gave any amount of trouble. Harford made a splendid save from a long shot by Duthie, who had moved up into the centre, and then efforts by Marcroft and Hutchinson kept Mackey and Reece on the run, while McGinnigle had to take a big part in resisting the assaults. A clever run by Hutchinson bamboozled the Town defence, and he appeared almost certain to score as he made his way in towards goal, but he shot at the wrong end, and the ball passed just wide of the upright. Nevertheless, it was a very good effort, and was warmly applauded. The Town took up the running again, and there was neat football among the inside forwards, with Hutchinson particularly useful, but the wingers did not get the ball across well. A bout of passing between the right-wing pair won applause, for they went right through, and Martin drove in a hard shot which brought out the best of the City goalkeeper, and then Rennie tricked two opponents and lifted the ball across, but Pease was forestalled by Galbraith's height. Fraser and Hutchinson made a similar move, but Pearson did not get the ball across. At the interval the Town well deserved their lead.

LUTON 1, CARDIFF 0.

A bright dribble by Jones immediately after the game was started, looked a good thing for the City, but his shot went well wide. A period of even play followed, each team playing nice football and causing the defences to keep on the move. Pearson was showing up much better than in the first half, and when he beat the opposition and put the ball up the middle, there should have been some profit, but it was rushed away because his colleagues did not realise his intention. The City replied with a strong attack, and it was well for the Town that there was also an improvement in the play of Reece. Mackey and McGinnigle did fine work, and Brown and Fraser were also very much alive to the nippiness of the City forwards. Harford, however, had a watching brief save for a few efforts that were not difficult. The Town got moving again, and MARTIN, after a clever bit of footwork, suddenly banded in a hot shot from the edge of the penalty area when the defenders were converging to the right,

expecting him to pass; the ball travelled at a great speed, and Adams had to leap for it; he seemed to catch the ball all right, but as he came to his feet again he slipped and the ball spun out of his arms and over the line, and although he made a frantic grab he could not get it before the referee had seen that it was almost in the back of the net, and a goal it was. It was just the sort of speculative effort that deserves to succeed though it was unfortunate for the goalkeeper.

PEARSON IMPROVES

Pearson was again responsible for meritorious efforts, and Adams saved cleverly a very hard drive after the winger had eluded Calder. The City then had another turn, playing up very strongly, and Harford had plenty to do. After he had fisted away a flag kick he had a great slice of luck, for Hutchinson wound up a brilliant run with a centre that went across to Marcroft, and the right winger, without opposition, dashed in and shot hard; Harford shot out a foot, and the ball rebounded from it—a very lucky save. Fraser and Pearson then went right through, and the half-back dashed in to centre, but as he got the ball across he was charged over, and as a result had to be assisted from the field. He was not seriously injured, and within a few minutes was back again. He was not in time to prevent the City scoring, however, for Jones, by a very clever dribble, went through and then whipped the ball across to the left; Hutchinson darted in and shot hard, but the ball struck a defender, and went to WEST, who shot hard; Harford leapt to the ball and caught it, but overbalanced, and it fell behind him into the goal. The City felt that there was a real chance of sharing the spoils, and played hard, but Mackey and Reece covered well, and the Town forwards came into the picture again.

MCGINNIGLE'S PENALTY

Skilful passing had the City defenders hard pressed, but they kicked and tackled strenuously, and Adams was very safe. However, the Town right wing made a move which brought the goal that virtually decided the result. They had the defence well beaten, and Pease slipped inside with the ball at his toe; he passed to Rennie, who had the goal at his mercy, but was brought down very badly almost under the bar, and a penalty kick was promptly given. MCGINNIGLE scored easily. The Town attacked hotly after this, and Pearson was again encouraged for very good work, while Adams had all his work cut out to save from Hutchinson, who shot well. All the forwards had shots at goal hereabouts, and a good centre by Pearson was luckily scrambled away. Just before the finish the Town defenders nearly paid the penalty for easing up, as Jones took possession in a rush and then drove in a very fine low shot, but Harford dived across and made his best save of the afternoon, turning the ball round the post. The City again pressed hard, but they were kept out.

DEFENCE

Harford did his part well, though it was not a very heavy task. Mackey showed that he was just as good at right-back as at left; indeed, many thought he was more at home there. He played a great game all through, and that was perhaps as well, for Reece was a long time in settling down. The latter was much better in the second half, and on the whole could be said to have come through his first game with credit. There was nothing wrong with the middle line. All three played fine football, covering a lot of ground and giving splendid support in attack. Brown again justified his inclusion, and Fraser was the most polished half-back on view, while McGinnigle was much more at home on the hard ground than usual.

ATTACK

The inside forwards were very clever, and constantly had the City defenders in two minds, while the shooting was fairly good. There was not much to prefer among them from the aspect of usefulness. The wingers were a long time in settling down, but both did very good work in the second half. Pease then came much nearer his best than in recent games, and has only to advance to the same degree during the holidays to make his position quite secure. Pearson had a poor first half, but did not deserve so much barracking. Probably the noisy ones on Saturday were the people who sent Rowe away from Luton. In the second half the Town left winger seemed to realise that the short cut was better, for he was very much more a member of the team, and got the ball across a lot better.

CITIZENS

Adams kept goal well for the City, and is likely to make a very good goalkeeper. Calder was the more stylish of the backs, but Russell kicked and tackled grimly, though not very scrupulous. Malmend was the best of the halves, playing clever football, almost comparable with Fraser, and the others were grafters. The forwards combined well, and had plenty of speed. Jones was the live wire, his control and intelligence being equal to that of any player on the field. The wingers also did well, and Curtis was a shrewd purveyor, but West was usually crowded out.

Attendance, 5,984; receipts £320 17s. 8d. The winner of the ball was Mr. A. T. Carter, 90, Cromwell-road, Luton.

FOOTBALL

SPARTAN LEAGUE

Berkhamsted 0, Leighton United 0.

SOUTH MIDLANDS LEAGUE

Division I.

Bletchley Town 0, Kempston Rovers 4.

Knebworth 1, Watlington 2.

Rushden Town 4, Wolverton Town 1.

Shredded Wheat 5, Vauxhall Motors 2.

Baldock Town 1, Pye Radio 2.

Cambridge Town 3, Hitchin Town 1.

Division II.

Arlesey Town 2, Vauxhall Motors 2.

Watlington's (Dunstable) 5, Biscot C.L.B. 0.

Dunstable Athletic 7, Welwyn 0.