

ROUGH STUFF AT CARDIFF

FARQUHARSON'S BRILLIANCE SAVES THE CITY

Big Improvement in Luton's Combination

(By CRUSADER)

CARDIFF CITY	1
LUTON TOWN	0

CARDIFF CITY.—Farquharson; Bland, Everest; Jennings, Bassett, Galbraith; Griffiths, Vaughan, Keating, Riley, Jackson.

LUTON TOWN.—Preedy; Mackey, Reece; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Bell (S.), Martin, Bell (T.), Stephenson, Russell.

Referee.—Mr. E. C. Mills, Warminster.

It would be much more preferable if I could say that the Town were well and truly beaten. There may be disappointment in having to make such a confession, but in a match where they deserved not only both points, but a dozen, they were beaten by rough tactics, particularly in the second half.

Russell and Stephenson bore the brunt of this mischief, because these tactics were adopted from the outset. Russell was clean knocked out, and off the field for ten minutes, having been sandwiched and mauled. Fraser had his knickers all but kicked off, and Stephenson had the imprint of studmarks on his chest. Then, just before the end there was a kick at Stephenson as he was making a bee-line for goal, and at last the referee had a word about it.

UNEQUALLED DECISION

Apart entirely from leniency, the referee gave one decision which I have never seen equalled. Tom Bell was clearly tripped in the penalty area. The referee whistled and then gave a free-kick about five yards outside the area. It was the first time I ever saw a trip in the penalty area modified into "dangerous play."

The big comfort, from my point of view, was that the Town played brilliant football once they had settled down, and only the rough stuff, plus their own bad shooting and Farquharson's excellent goalkeeping, prevented them bringing home the points.

It was a gruelling game, for the atmosphere was stifling. There was an attendance of 18,000, and they were worked up to a frenzy of excitement, especially in the second half, when their goal escaped again and again.

Kean won the toss, and at once the Town went away, Farquharson having to pick up a pass back from Bland.

When the City got away, Fraser cleared cleverly from the jaws of goal, and the City were sent back. However, the big kicking of their full-backs had the Town often running the wrong way, but it was some time before Preedy was called into action.

RILEY WINDED

A volley by Mackey knocked the wind out of Riley, and then Keating was penalised for fouling McGinnigle. Farquharson had plenty of time in which to take a shot by Martin, and the City sped to the other end, where Jackson shot wide.

Again the City came, and Preedy had to be alert to take two sharp drives from Bassett and Vaughan. The Town were soon at it again, and Bland headed clear.

Following neat work by Fraser and Stephenson, Russell centred cleverly from the line, only to be given offside as Tom Bell went to shoot.

More clever work by the Town left had Bland and Jennings in trouble, and they rushed Russell, as a result of which he had to be helped from the field.

The City were reckless in their tackling, as in their kicking, and by dint of these methods they cleared their lines again and again.

GROUNDER WINS

Seventeen minutes after the start the City succeeded. Keating got possession, tricked Reece, and sent out to GRIFFITHS, who raced in and easily beat Preedy with a fast ground shot. The Town soon retaliated, and Fraser sent his wing away for Farquharson to accept Stephenson's centre. Pretty play by Kean and Martin enabled Sam Bell to centre right into the goalmouth, but a ruck of defenders hustled into Tom Bell while Farquharson cleared.

Martin dribbled through, but lifted well over the bar. Russell now returned, and immediately sent across a beautiful centre, which was luckily scrambled away. Another great effort by the Town's left saw Russell drive in a fierce ground shot, which Farquharson saved at full length.

Tom Bell was again hustled off the ball when Stephenson had put him through with a nice ground pass. Immediately afterwards the City goalkeeper held another hot one from Martin.

HEADER INTERCEPTED

The City right made trouble at the other end, but Reece cleared in capital fashion, and again the Town right wing, with Kean's assistance, went through. Russell cleverly headed into the goal area, but Tom Bell was just too late to forestall Bland.

The City now played desperately, and Keating raced past Mackey, only for Preedy to take the ball while Reece held off the man. In another effort by the home forwards, Preedy saved at the expense of a corner.

The Town soon replied, the passing on the left wing being very clever, and Farquharson put out a brilliant centre from Russell, taken on the run. Bassett next saved the City goal as Tom Bell was heading in for a clear shot. Farquharson saved again from Stephenson at full length when a goal appeared certain, and the Town inside-left was badly brought down.

Half-time:

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Immediately on the re-start, Kean raced away with his wing, but Stephenson was fouled, and the free kick was cleared. The Town kept play in front of the City goal, and Farquharson brilliantly saved from Martin at the expense of a corner.

From the flag kick the Town tried to rush a goal, but were met by a compact barrier. Preedy had to save from Griffiths, and was unsighted by McGinnigle, and only just managed to get a shot in time.

TOWN ON TOP

The Town now began to dominate the play, both wings playing brilliant football. Time after time they swept down in line, beating the halves and backs with clever passes, but the successful shot could not come.

Stephenson, Martin, Russell and Sam Bell all had shots saved by Farquharson, who was lucky on two or three occasions to get the ball away.

Then came the incident when Bell snapped up a pass and had beaten the backs when he was tripped in the penalty area by Everest. The referee simply gave a free kick as stated above, and Farquharson saved Kean's shot.

Play now became very rough, and some of the Town players responded to the treatment they had received. But the City packed their goal area, and booted the ball into touch at every threat. Farquharson was constantly in action, but once was beaten, and Everest kicked off the goal-line.

Russell next raced through and missed the goal by inches only, repeating this twice within the next five minutes. Sam Bell also drove in hard shots, and at this stage the Town forwards could do everything but score. Farquharson saved his charge again

and again, and none were more pleased when the whistle sounded than the City players.

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COMMENTS

Preedy did his part well, but had not half the work that fell to Farquharson. Mackey was moderate in the first half, but in the second he was more like the Mackey we want, and did a great deal in driving the Town's forwards to the attack again and again.

Reece once more played a magnificent game, while the half-backs, once they had mastered the City's methods, dominated the struggle. They joined in the attack, and some of the combination between the forwards and the halves had the spectators almost spellbound.

Martin was a great forward—right at his best. After a hot first half in which he was hustled unmercifully, Sam Bell did much clever work. Russell suffered from the buffeting he received, but with any luck would have gathered three or four goals, so well did he shoot.

Stephenson was quicker on the ball than on Saturday, and his passing was very accurate. Tom Bell again played a dashing game without being able to make his mark on the score sheet.

For the City, F. Galbraith, Keating and Griffiths were best, and none could grumble at their methods.