

ONE POINT OF THREE

Luton Draw at Home and Lose Away

Roughness at Cardiff

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	1
SOUTHEND UNITED	1

Scorers: SAM BELL for Luton; JOHNSON for Southend.

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

SOUTHEND.—Whitelaw; Stevenson, Robinson; Williams, Wilson, Smith; Oswald, Jones, Johnson, Cheesmur, Clark. Referee.—Mr. W. J. Lewington, Croydon.

CARDIFF CITY	1
LUTON TOWN	0

Scorer: GRIFFITHS.

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.

ENTHUSIASM has seldom been so high at Luton that an attendance of 12,000 witnessed the first game while there were other sports still holding the field. It was very disappointing, therefore, that Luton Town did not manage to take both points from their match with Southend United. It has to be admitted that the visitors were worthy of their point, for while the Town had the better of the general play in the first half, the visitors played so well for a long period in the second that they deserved their lead.

THIS was a goal scored by JOHNSON with a header, after very clever play on the right wing by Oswald, Jones and Williams. Several times they were within an ace of increasing the lead, but failed to do so, and eventually the Town improved to such an extent that the visitors' goal fell to a shot by SAM BELL, after Martin and Russell had made the chance. In the last minute the Town nearly snatched the victory, for a shot by Stephenson struck the foot of the upright, and the ball twisted round the fallen goalkeeper, and came out again, close to the farther post.

APPEALS for a goal were not made until the referee was seen to hesitate, since everybody took it for granted that the ball was over the line. The players were congratulating the scorer, and Southend players were looking very gium, until the referee shook his head, and there was then no time to take advantage of the situation.

THE TOWN attack never settled down. The quickness of the Southend players in tackling, as well as in their movements to attack, made the home side appear slow by comparison, and it could not be argued that there was superior combination by the Town. The only pull, and it was very slight, that the Town had, was in the support given by the middle line to the forwards. In defence Southend were quite as good, and Wilson played the third back game very much better than McGinnigle, though I do not think the Town centre-half tried to do so.

I SHOULD not be far wrong in saying that Wilson was chiefly responsible for the United winning a point, for he did great work in the goal area, and Tom Bell did not seem to know a way to get round him. If the third back game does not make for attractive football, when played as by Wilson, it is a very powerful defensive factor.

APART from the Town forwards appearing to be slower than the visiting defenders, there was a lack of good marksmanship. There were not half-a-dozen good shots sent in, and Whitelaw had very little trouble until the last few minutes. Then he was fortunate to keep the score down to the solitary point by Sam Bell.

IN addition to Kean, Fraser and Reece, splendid work was performed in defence by Preedy, and Mackey improved as the game proceeded. Martin was most prominent among the forwards, especially in the second half, and when the five began to introduce some fire into their job, they were a vastly different line. Had they put as much spirit into their work in the first half as in the last ten minutes, there would have been a happier result.

AT CARDIFF

GREAT improvement was seen in the team work of the Town at Ninian Park on Monday night, and they were most unfortunate to lose. It was a long time, however, before they showed real superiority, for the City adopted methods that, to say the least, were hardly what one expects from League football. It was not merely that their backs and halves were disposed

to play roughly, but that there was little attempt at combination.

FOR the whole of the game the backs and halves never attempted to give their forwards any assistance. It was simply kick and rush. The ball was booted vigorously as far away from the City goal as possible, and the forwards were expected to race for it and challenge the opposing defenders. They did this wholeheartedly, too, and now and then Keating managed to get his line going nicely. As the ball usually came high, one or two players would jump for it, and the number of times three or four players fell in a heap was extraordinary.

MOST of the work that Preedy had came from shots from near the half-way line or the vicinity of the touch-line. On the other hand, the Town forwards were playing rather close, and the lusty defenders bundled into them without ceremony, and often very dangerously, and too frequently players were bumped to the turf in a manner that left signs of rough usage long after the match.

RUSSELL was very badly sandwiched and was knocked unconscious when cutting in for goal, and it was during his absence that the City scored the goal that won the match. There was a flutter up the middle, and both McGinnigle and Reece failed to capture the ball as Keating went for it; the centre-forward sent it out to the right wing, where GRIFFITHS raced in and beat Preedy with a hard ground shot right away from him.

WHEN Russell resumed, the Town forwards did much more attacking, and they settled into something like a definite combination. Farquharson made several very fine saves, and once he dived at full-length and managed to hold a terrific shot from Russell that seemed bound to score. Over and over again Farquharson saved his side, but always there seemed to be direct menace in the swift rushes and bustling tactics of the home forwards.

IN the second half the City were on the defensive almost throughout, and Farquharson saved his charge again and again. The City defenders became rattled; the passing of the Town forwards was very clever, and the halves supported them so well that success seemed bound to come. Martin had a splendid shot saved cleverly, Stephenson had dribbled through when Jennings brought him down very badly, and the Town player had to receive attention, there being the imprint of stud-marks on his chest. Twice Tom Bell headed over the bar good centres when Farquharson stood helpless to prevent a goal.

THEN came the incident when Tom Bell was going through and Everest tripped him, and the referee simply gave a free kick some yards INSIDE the penalty area. The City played wildly, and there was a lot of roughness for some of the Town began to retaliate in kind. There was one big piece of luck for the Town when, in a hectic onslaught by the City, Preedy saved but could not get the ball away, and Kean dashed in and kicked clear. The Town, however, were soon at it again, and Everest got the ball away from his goal-line when Farquharson was beaten, and Bassett robbed Russell just in time when he was through.

TOM BELL skimmed the bar, Farquharson tipped over a shot from Russell, and then saved finely from Sam Bell, and the latter only just failed with a splendid cross shot, while Stephenson headed inches over. Russell raced clean through the defence and beat Farquharson all the way, but the ball scraped past the farther upright, and just afterwards the Town left winger repeated the effort. Only at rare intervals did the City get over the half-way line, but the goal would not come. Stephenson had a fine chance as he beat the backs, but by some freak of positioning, Jackson was in defence, and he brought Stephenson down very badly. When play was resumed, Russell was again inches wide with a flying shot, and to the end the City packed their goal, with success.

THE whole of the Town team played splendidly, though Mackey did not touch his best until the interval, when he was a real force, and the City left wing had a poor time. The most hopeful feature, however, was the good work in the attack. The passing was delightful, and the spectators cheered frantically as their goal escaped time and again. What was required, however, was a good marksman, who could shoot on the run, and until the deficiency is remedied the Town will not reap the benefit of their cleverness in the open.