

FIRST WIN

LUTON AVEGE THEIR DEFEAT AT CARDIFF

MARTIN'S BRACE

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	4
CARDIFF CITY	0
LUTON.—Preedy; Mackey, Reece; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Bell (S.), Martin, Cook, Stephenson, Russell.	
CARDIFF.—Farquharson; Lane, Everest; Bland, Bassett, Galbraith; Whitlow, Keating, Lewis, Riley, Griffiths (S.).	
Referee.—Mr. E. C. Mills, Warminster.	

LUTON TOWN recorded their first victory last night, when they took ample revenge for the defeat sustained at CARDIFF a week ago. There was no question as to superiority, once the Town had settled to their business, but it was nearly half-time before they got the measure of the robust methods and the intense earnestness of the City. Although the game was marked by many infringements and unpleasant incidents, it was not so hectic as I had expected after what happened at Cardiff, and if any confirmation of my opinion of the referee in that game was required, then the crowd had it last night, and no further comment is required on that score.

UNEASINESS

The City's use of the long boot bothered the Town defenders a lot in the early stages, and if there was no very dire threat, the persistence of the visitors caused a lot of uneasiness. The first shots came from the visitors, though there was nothing that Preedy had not time to see well in advance. At the other end Martin had a clear opening from a grand centre by Bell, and he swung a leg, but the ball evaded him. Stephenson hung on to the ball just a shade too long after neat control, but in one fine passing run with Russell there was real danger, and the latter drove in very hard for Farquharson to bring off a splendid save at the expense of a corner. Reece needlessly gave a foul, and only a strong effort by McGinnigle foiled Lewis close in.

TOWN IMPROVE

Gradually the Town lost their patchiness, and there was more nip in their attacks, but the shooting was not good. Cook once had the backs beaten, but when he should have fired he passed across the goal-mouth to nobody; a slam might well have beaten Farquharson from such short range. The City had plenty of pace, and their long kicks, which could hardly be described as passes, often found the Town defenders out of position. Several times the Town defenders got in each other's way, and more than once Kean flung himself into the breach and showed them how to clear their lines. When Stephenson could keep his feet the left wing menaced the City goal, and they frequently carried the ball through, but the City packed their goal well, and left nothing to chance.

BELL AGAIN

Cook was slow to accept a fine centre by Bell, but Russell dashed in and shot brilliantly. Farquharson saving grandly at full length. A goal seemed certain just afterwards, when Russell centred the ball right across and Bell dashed in and headed the ball downwards, only to see it strike Farquharson's leg and rebound. Many corners were forced, and desperately though the City defended, they could not hope to survive such pressure. Now and then their forwards got going, and Preedy had to handle a few times, but soon the Town were sweeping on the City goal again, and it was Russell's forceful work that eventually brought a goal. He rushed into the middle, keeping the ball well to his feet, and then drove it across goal; it appeared to be going out of play, but BELL raced after it, and from an angle that seemed impossible drove the ball hard and true into the net.

MARTIN ADDS

The City were forced to fight on the retreat, but offered strenuous resistance, and many infringements were overlooked, though Bland was penalised more than once. Farquharson made a marvellous full-length save from Stephenson, but could not get the ball away, and the inside-left dashed up and shot again, but Bassett, standing on the goal-line, fisted out, and no penalty was awarded. However, the ball did not travel far away from the goal, and Fraser dribbled almost to the corner flag and then dropped it into the ruck again, and MARTIN dodged through and shot; Farquharson partially saved as he dived, but the ball struck the post and went over the line as Martin ran in to make further assurance. The interval was sounded just afterwards:—

LUTON TOWN	2
CARDIFF CITY	0

The Town took up the attack immediately, and Farquharson had to save from Stephenson. Mackey and Fraser in turn staved off attempts by the City, and the Town right wing nonplussed the City defenders by fast and accurate combination, but Martin headed wide. Three minutes after the change over, Martin hoodwinked the opposition and slipped the ball over to Stephenson, who beat the defence with a nod of the head, and COOK slipped between the backs and beat Farquharson all ends up with a well-placed shot as the custodian ran out. The Town were certainly playing

much better together, and were shooting very well. Russell was only inches wide with a fine shot, and the City goal was bombarded, but the shots mainly came from the wingers. Spasmodic efforts by the City forwards found the Town defenders out of position, but there was more boot than aim in the shots, and Preedy's job was easy.

SURPRISED

A surprise goal was scored by MARTIN after some manœuvring in mid-field; the inside-right feinted as though to pass, but suddenly let drive at goal, and Farquharson, momentarily off his guard, flung himself frantically at the ball, but just a ghost of a second too late, and he was beaten from a distance of over twenty yards. Roughness developed after this, and there were numerous fouls that the referee disregarded. Farquharson was constantly in action, and saved grandly from Stephenson after clever work by Russell. The Town halves kept their forwards on the move, and rarely did the visitors make a concerted movement. Time after time the Town forwards bore down on Farquharson's charge, but he saved magnificently again and again, and the end came without further score.

THE TOWN

Preedy had very little to do after the first twenty minutes, and never had a really difficult shot to negotiate. Mackey and Reece played strongly and soundly in general, though now and then caught out of position. Mackey is back at his best. The halves were as effective as ever, but there should be much better understanding between the backs and McGinnigle. Two or three times the City nearly got through because the home players were in each other's way, and none seemed inclined to call for possession. A lot of uneasiness could have been avoided had there been just a word to claim the situation. The forwards did not get into their stride for some time. Stephenson allowed clever footwork to be of no avail by hanging on just too long, and he did not keep his feet well after beating opponents for possession by delightful touches. Martin dribbled well, and better control could not be desired. The wingers were again on form, both playing splendidly, and Russell was always in the picture. Cook had a better match than on Saturday, but needs pace and a quicker aim if he is to round off the good work of himself and his colleagues.

CITY

Farquharson saved the City from a heavy defeat, and is still a grand goalkeeper. I felt sorry for him over the last goal, because a custodian should never be caught unaware, but it was a very deceptive shot. His backs played stubbornly, with Bassett as third man in defence. Keating tried very hard to get some unity in the attack, and Riley did a few clever things, but there was no real combination worth mentioning after the early stages.

There were 9,371 paid for admission, the receipts being £507 16s. 7d.