

CHARLTON'S CHANCE WAS TAKEN

Luton Suffer Defeat at Home

(By CRUSADER)

BEFORE a crowd of upwards of 11,000 spectators, Luton Town again failed to satisfy. It is disappointing enough when one's favourites are beaten by a better side, but to lose a game in which, for three-fourths of the play, the ball is in the opponents' territory is galling. Only in one aspect of the game could Charlton be held a better side than the Town, and that was in defence. There they were as safe as the Bank of England, because Luton's forwards could not find the key to get through.

LUTON played hard enough, and were better in combination than Charlton; indeed, the latter rarely got moving as a team after the first half-hour, but they had certain ideas as to how to keep out the Luton forwards, and they succeeded. Then two lucky goals were theirs through the failure of the Town goalkeeper, and so the spoils went to London.



JACK RUSSELL

IN the first half, the superiority of the Town as a team was not so marked as in the second, but they did enough pressing to have held a good lead at half-time had they known how to overcome the sturdy resistance of the Athletic. Cook did hit the bar once and, on another occasion was unfortunate inasmuch as the referee failed to see that the ball had been headed over the line when the Charlton goalkeeper had saved once, but, on the whole, the leadership of the Town forwards never looked like breaking down the Charlton defence by craft. The goal scored by RUSSELL was from a penalty kick given against Harris for handling, and that was a lucky decision for Luton, so the good fortune was not all one-sided.

CHARLTON'S equaliser was just as fortunate, for it appeared as though Preedy completely missed a bouncing ball

from ROBINSON, who shot from a corner kick badly placed by Wilkinson. There was no other goal before the change of ends, but in the second half, Charlton, after being besieged again and again, scored from a breakaway. Whatever chance Preedy may have had to stop the first goal, he should most certainly have prevented the second. Wilkinson sent across to the other side of the field a centre that had not much to commend it other than pace; Hobbis was unmarked, and gathered and shot hard; Preedy got to the ball without difficulty, but failed to grasp it, and it rebounded from his arms to the feet of PRIOR, who shot through.

THE Town pressed heavily and severely for long periods in this half. Over and over again the ball was all but through, but the Charlton defenders stuck grimly to their task, and reinforced by forwards and halves they fought to the last ditch. Many scrimmages were seen close to the goal-line, and once Russell had the ill-luck to hit the bar with a shot which fell on to the goalkeeper and came out. There was a lack of enterprise in marksmanship from the Town forwards, and, although they were playing hard, at no time were they convincing, and when Charlton had scored the second goal there was little hope of saving the game.

CHARLTON deserved all they got, because they were so plucky. They knew how to guard their goal, and, although the third back game is not a game in the best sense of the word, it was played mightily and ruthlessly by Turner, who was probably the best player on the field from the point of view of effectiveness. Wright kept goal well, and Smith and Oakes fought valiantly all through. Hobbis did well in attack, but for most of the time the visitors were playing a stopping game and little more, trusting to something to turn up that would save them from defeat or give them victory. It did turn up, and they took the chance.

PREEDY did not impress at any time, and this was his bad game, which was very disappointing after his display at Bristol. Mackey was the more reliable back, Kingham, taking the place of Reece, having a warm time when Hobbis got on the move. Kean was the best half-back on view, for Fraser did not have as good a time as usual, and McGinnigle was about the same. Nevertheless, the halves gave the forwards enough chances to have won the match.

COOK fell away after a promising start; Stephenson found the tackling of the visitors too quick for him, and of the inside forwards Martin was the pick, though he has played a lot better. Russell and Sam Bell did fairly well, though neither was so prominent as usual.

LUTON. — Preedy; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Bell (S), Martin, Cook, Stephenson, Russell.

CHARLTON. — Wright; Smith, Oakes; Harris, Turner, Jobling; Wilkinson, Robinson, Prior, Stephenson, Hobbis.

Referee.—Mr. D. G. Kirby, Coventry.

LUTON TOWN 1
CHARLTON ATHLETIC 2