

GRIM STRUGGLE

Bristol Defence Prevails at Luton

(By CRUSADER)

WITH the encouragement of two away successes, the advent of a first-class centre-forward for whom the Club had paid a very high fee less than twenty-four hours before the match, Luton Town might well have expected their biggest crowd of the season when they entertained Bristol City. The attendance was just below 9,000, and, as events proved, they were very disappointed.

WITHOUT a shadow of doubt Luton should have won by a substantial margin. They had so much the better of the game that the crowd rightly expected a goal almost every two or three minutes, but the City defenders had other ideas, and though they had little hope of averting defeat, they did so, thanks to the magnificent spirit of their defenders.

MANY opportunities were missed by the Town forwards, the shooting being very poor, though Ball, the new centre-forward, seldom received a ball on the ground, and wherever he happened to be there also could be found at least one opponent. However, he contrived to make chances for his colleagues had they been quick enough to make use of them, but their finishing was very poor, and at no time did they show the skill and quality they had shown at Exeter.

THEY were able to force many corners, but by comparison with the measure of attacking they put remarkably few shots into goal, and most of Dolman's activities were so confined to accepting headers. The stiff wind, however, did much to make control difficult, and over and over again the ball was sent behind from close range.

RENNIE had one shot which struck the goalkeeper's leg. Martin headed over from almost under the bar, and Stephenson had a header that was knocked on to the bar by the goalkeeper, and then bounded over. Ball was conspicuous for many attempts to flick the ball in with his head, but Dolman positioned well, and gathered the ball neatly.

THE City rarely got a chance to test Coen, who had only one shot to save in the first half, and that a poor specimen. They were always playing with great pluck, however, and every man worked as though the championship of the League rested upon his efforts, and they crossed over on equal terms, and with their goal intact.

COEN had to save a good shot from Riley immediately after the restart, and after little skirmishes by the Town the visitors took the lead as a result of bad judgment by Kingham. The Town right

back could have cleared comfortably a loose ball, but he called to Coen to come for it; when the custodian did so Kingham also went for it and turned the ball past the goalkeeper; CAINEY had come up behind Kingham, and promptly took advantage of the gift.

THE Town renewed their assaults, and there were desperate struggles in the City goal-mouth, but it was a long time before the scores were levelled. Ball was responsible for he it was who forced the City defenders to concede a corner, and during a tussle that followed BALL shot into the net. The same player only just missed with a grand shot a minute or two later.

THE City hung on grimly to what they had, and in addition to their strong tackling and kicking they managed to waste a lot of time, Loftus being particularly noticeable for this, as for grand work generally. The Town forwards seemed to lose heart somewhat towards the end, but in the last minute Martin got over a good centre, and Ball turned the ball out to the left with a neat nod, and Rennie had the goal at his mercy, but failed to score.

THE City defenders deserved all the good things that could be said of them for their magnificent resistance. There were several reserves in the side, but they all played well, and they showed abundance of grit and stamina, and never relaxed their efforts. They should have been beaten on the run of the game, but they refused to submit, and were worthy for the bonus they earned.

COEN had his easiest match of the season; Mackey played as well as ever and other than the grievous blunder, Kingham did well. All the halves were on form, and their service to the attack was splendid. The forwards never got together with the understanding they showed at Exeter. Even making allowances for the spoiling factor of the wind, which was all against good football, they should have won easily. They were all workers, but could not do the right thing in front of goal, especially the left wing pair.

THE bright feature from the supporters' aspect was the success of Ball, the new centre-forward. Under his leadership the line should be capable of getting many goals. He will get better service from his colleagues than he had in this game. His headwork was splendid, and he led with dash and energy. On this showing he is the best leader the Town have had since Ernest Simms.

LUTON TOWN 1
BRISTOL CITY 1

LUTON. — Coen; Kingham, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Martin, Bell (S.), Ball, Rennie, Stephenson.

BRISTOL CITY.—Dolman; Bridge, Clipson; Gollidge, Pearce, Loftus; Hodge, Banfield, Riley, Landells, Caine.

Referee.—Mr. W. J. Lewington, Croydon.