

ONE POINT ONLY

For Luton in a Great Game With Watford

(By "CRUSADER")

WATFORD went away well satisfied with their point gained from **LUTON TOWN** on Saturday. There would be few Luton followers that would deny the visitors their right to it, mainly because of their brilliant display in the first half.

Watford followers admitted that their lads played better football than in any game this season during thirty minutes of the first half.

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LUTON had started well, though they were never better than the opposition in the early stages, and not even when they had the lead. That goal, by the way, was a bright effort by **BALL**. Taking a pass from **Martin** while he had his back to the Watford goal, he deftly back-heeled the ball, swerved past **Moran** and then drove hard and low through a very narrow space into the net.

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WATFORD had already given **Coen** plenty of opportunity of showing his skill and of testing their mettle, and later he did marvellous work, and there can be no question that he averted a home defeat. Some of his saves were as brilliant as they were heroic.

No goalkeeper has played better for the Town than did **Coen** in this hectic period.

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YET when the goal did come, I thought he might have got to the ball before **O'BRIEN**. Possibly he hesitated because he thought, as many others, that the scorer was offside. Whatever may be said about it, however, **Coen** made wonderful saves subsequently when Watford were all over the Town, and he had just made a good save when **LANE** rushed in and forced the ball into the net for the second time.

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LUTON had chances in the first half, but the machine was never running smoothly, and they also had to face the elements, which were very troublesome, wind and rain being against the Town, although **Mackey** had won the toss. **McLaren** made good saves, but he was fortunate to see hard shots from **Stephenson** and **Martin** intercepted, a drive from **Rennie** just clear the bar, and a header from **Bell** roll past the farther upright.

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THE second half provided a different story. The Town had by far the better of the exchanges, and, though they never touched the delightful football they had shown at Bournemouth, they were good enough to keep the Watford defence on tenterhooks nearly all the time. Watford were confined to raids, but their defence, reinforced from the attack, held off attack after attack.

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WHEREVER a Town forward was near the visitors' goal there would be a Watford player to balk and hamper.

It was good defensive tactics, and for a long time, in spite of the several narrow escapes of their goal, Watford did not look like losing the lead.

Once **Rennie** was knocked out as he tried to steer a ball close in; **Martin** and **Stephenson** had shots very close, and **Ball** was always working might and main to force an opening.

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WHEN the equalising goal came, it was the sequel to a long series of attacks, and numerous corner kicks. **McLaren** had already saved magnificently from **Rennie**, and had seen his colleagues clear from off the goal-line a few times.

Martin then drove a ball across to the left; **Rennie** returned it, and with the goalkeeper out of position, **STEPHENSON** dashed in and fired in an unstoppable shot.

IN the after play, Watford got away at times, but **Coen** was never again troubled so severely as he had been in the first half. On the other hand, **McLaren** had more to do, and did it well. The climax came when **Bell** took a ball on the run and shot grandly, only to see the goalkeeper throw himself full length and turn the ball aside.

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IT was one of the finest games seen on the ground for a long time, and the best between the clubs for years.

The visitors were easily the better side in the first period, and the Town were lucky to cross over in a deficit of only one goal. In the second period the visitors were just as lucky, for their goal should have fallen more than once in view of the many opportunities and the consistent attacks of the Town.

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COEN kept goal grandly, but his backs had a hard first half, improving vastly afterwards. So did the halves, though they could never be said to be right on top as had been the case in other matches, or **Coen** would not have earned so much glory. The forwards were rarely together as a line, but good individually, though the marksmanship could have been very much better.

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LUTON TOWN 2
(Ball, Stephenson)

WATFORD 2
(O'Brien, Lane)

LUTON. — **Coen**: Kingham, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Martin, Bell, Ball, Rennie, Stephenson.

WATFORD. — **McLaren**: Brown, Moran; Findlay, Armstrong, Woodward; Rattray, Barnett, Lane, O'Brien, Poxton.
Referee — Mr. R. G. Rudd, Kenton.