

# LUTON WIN AT HOME

## Keen Struggle Against Millwall

(By "CRUSADER")

LUTON TOWN proved too good for MILLWALL ATHLETIC, but there was not much in it at the finish, thanks to the splendid rally made by the visitors. In the first half, the Town were far the better side, and pressed for long periods without being able to overcome a compact defence.

When Millwall did break away, however, they came very near scoring, the Town goal having two or three very close shaves.

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MAINLY, however, play was in the Millwall half, for the Town half-backs dominated the play to such an extent that they were able to supply their forwards with opportunities to advance. These were accepted all right, and, if the finishing had been as good as the advances, or the Millwall defence had been less sound, there would have been a winning lead at half-time.

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YUILL and his backs played finely all through this half, when their task was particularly severe, and the goalkeeper made numerous saves that evoked the plaudits of the crowd. He was fortunate to see Ball and Bell miss comfortable



JACK BALL

chances, while many shots missed the mark only by narrow margins.

The custodian showed good judgment in cutting out centres from the right wing.

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PRESSURE was sustained for long periods, but nearly 40 minutes had elapsed before there was a goal. It followed something like a bombardment, shots from all quarters being repelled before MARTIN dashed in to seize a rebound, and, with a very hard drive at close quarters, gave Yuill no chance. This was the reward for persistent pressure, and free distribution of the ball all along the forward line.

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YARDLEY was the most dangerous of the Millwall vanguard in this half. Twice Coen had to come out in a hurry and take the ball almost off the centre-forward's toe, while, on another occasion, Yardley was temporarily balked by the goalkeeper,

but the ball eluded both of them, and the Millwall leader only just failed to overtake it, and put it into the vacant goal.

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A GOOD deal of vigour was introduced in the closing stages of the half, and this spoilt, to some extent, what had been a really fine struggle.

Two or three of the visitors were spoken to, and Turnbull, in particular, was rebuked sternly for fouls on Martin, who had given the big full-back a great deal of trouble.

IN the second half, there was still a tendency to introduce some rough stuff, but the referee was keenly observant of infringement, and insisted on clean play. He spoke to Yardley for a foul on Smith, and free kicks were given against each side. The Town were only slightly the better for the first 20 minutes of this period, but after the second goal, they fell away considerably.

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YUILL had made more good saves, and a lot of Millwall pressure had been thwarted before BALL scored a splendid goal. Bell gave him the chance by seizing the ball as it was cleared from a Millwall attack, shooting it up the middle for Ball to take on the run, and beat Yuill as the goalkeeper came out.

This was one of the very few occasions when the Luton leader had a real chance, for Hancock watched him very closely.

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MILLWALL took the upper hand after a good deal of scrappy and midfield play, and, with the Town defenders showing a falling-off, the Town goal was frequently in danger. Coen saved several good attempts, but Millwall persisted, and eventually reduced the lead four minutes from the end. They had forced a corner, and, although the ball was scrambled away, HANCOCK came well up, and went right through to score with a hard shot.

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COEN kept goal as well as ever, and Reece and Smith played very well at back, the latter making a successful first appearance in place of the injured Mackey. All the halves played clever football for an hour, and none could wish for finer initiatory work than that of Brown and Fraser, with Thayne a force in the middle of the field. Later in the game, however, there were signs of fatigue.

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THE forward work touched a high level before the interval, but fell away later.

Rennie went lame again in the middle of the second half, but Stephenson did better when he went inside, and, altogether, they were a level and well-balanced line when at their best.

Yuill did great service for the visitors, with Walsh a polished defender. Newcomb was the best of a strong middle line, and Yardley the most dangerous forward, with Alexander the craftsman.

LUTON TOWN ..... 2  
(Martin, Ball)

MILLWALL ATHLETIC ..... 1  
(Hancock).

LUTON.—Coen; Reece, Smith; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Martin, Bell, Ball, Rennie, Stephenson.

MILLWALL.—Yuill; Walsh, Turnbull; Newcomb, Hancock, Miller; McCartney, Alexander, Yardley, Roberts, Harkins.  
Referee.—E. C. Carnwell, Lichfield.