

DEFEAT AT READING

But Luton Put Up a Gallant Struggle

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN put up a gallant fight at Reading, and were beaten by only the one goal of the match.

This was the only occasion on which the defence was found wanting, and had the forwards been equally efficient, the game would certainly not have been lost. No praise could be too high for the rearguard and the half-backs, for they had to counter a strong and bustling attack, eager for goals.

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THE forwards were not consistent, and only in patches did they give of their best, though, towards the end of the game they found Whittaker a fair amount of work. Against a stout defence they could make little impression, and their marksmanship left a good deal to be desired. The inside wingers were too often playing together much in the rear of their colleagues.

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THERE was no goal until after half-time, but Reading had considerably the more territorial advantage, and when they found a way to goal, they usually shot hard and well, and lost no opportunity of challenging defenders for possession.

It was this persistence and enterprise that determined the issue, for the goal came as the result of a thrust maintained by the forwards when there appeared to be little likelihood of a goal.

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IT fell to **BUTLER**, but the movement began with Barley and was carried on by Fielding and Tait, who scrambled the ball out to the right when he himself found the way barred by two or three defenders, and the scorer was unmarked. There would have been more goals, however, but for the brilliance of Coen, who again gave a splendid display, and saved time after time at close quarters when all appeared lost.

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THE Town's chances in the first half were frittered away by bad shooting, in which the left-wing pair were the worst offenders. Later in the game an attempt was made to bring more punch into the attack, and Whittaker's goal had a few narrow escapes, but was never so seriously threatened as that of the Town, and, apart from two occasions, he was not extended.

HE was lucky to see Martin shoot wide after a magnificent effort by Brown, who dribbled more than half the length of the field and beat half-a-dozen opponents before giving the inside-right a neat pass, but the shot travelled right across goal and out of play. Later, he had to save twice at full length, and scramble the ball clear after a tussle with opponents.

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READING played a strong, bustling game, fore and aft, and considering the stakes, it was a clean struggle, reflecting credit on both sides.

In the home defence, Hayhurst was a striking figure, and there was none better in those departments concerned with the protection of goal. Forward, Tom Tait played like one inspired, and it was evident that he was very anxious to score against his old club, but he had not that pleasure. Fielding was probably the best of the line.

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COEN maintains his very high standard of goalkeeping, and has nothing to regret in regard to his part. Reece has never played better, and Mackey was a splendid partner. All the half-backs did fine work. Thayne in defence, and the others contrived to supply their forwards with good passes. The vanguard, however, was somewhat ragged and inconsistent. Crompton had but few chances, but showed promise.

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READING 1
(Butler)

LUTON TOWN 0

READING.—Whittaker; Gregory, Robson; Johnson. Hayhurst, Wright; Butler, Chandler, Tait, Barley, Fielding.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Reece, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Rennie, Stephenson.

Referee.—G. Dutton, Southport.