

LUTON'S BEST PERFORMANCE

Millwall Heavily Beaten at Home

(By CRUSADER.)

LUTON TOWN eclipsed their previous best of the season when they won at New Cross, inflicting a heavy defeat on their old rivals of MILLWALL.

Although they scored four goals, it had to be admitted that the main feature of their play was the success of the defence, which was simply magnificent.

Millwall pressed for three-fourths of the game, and in mid-field, played very fine football, but they had not the wit to overcome a great defence, and on the other hand the Town forwards were able to make good several of their chances.

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THE way to success was paved by two goals that came within two minutes of each other—at the tenth and the twelfth minutes. In each case BALL was accounted the scorer. The first came when Stephenson got the ball across after neat work with Roberts and Fraser; Bell shot hard, and the ball was going straight for the farther corner of the net when BALL jumped up, and from his head it passed into the net.

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THE second was the result of splendid work on the right wing, in which Brown, Ball and Crompton were the aggressors. The winger got through and neatly passed inside to Bell, whose transfer was accepted by BALL, and the centre-forward shot a great goal, the pace of the ball as it landed in the top of the net, leaving the Millwall custodian helpless.

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MILLWALL played desperately hard, and Coen and his backs were kept very busy, but the better chances came at the other end. Ball missed by a narrow margin, after more good work on the right wing, and again from Crompton's pass he seemed certain to score, but slipped on the sloppy ground, and could not get in his shot. Then Fraser all but beat Yuill with a high shot, the goalkeeper saving finely just underneath the bar.

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HOWEVER, play was mainly at the Luton end, and McCARTNEY scored a fine goal after a brilliant solo effort, in which he dribbled past several opponents before banging the ball into the net. Thorogood headed over from close in, and Coen saved twice at full length. The Town backs and halves thwarted the home forwards again and again, and at the interval the visitors were in the lead.

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MILLWALL put on full pressure after change of ends, and kept up an almost ceaseless attack.

Coen saved shots from many angles, and was twice injured, once being knocked out, for the home inside forwards never hesitated to go neck and crop for the goalkeeper in possession. The Town backs and halves concentrated cleverly on defence, and after a very gruelling experience they prevailed.

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AND so the forwards took a long-awaited turn, with a success that delighted the Luton followers, who were in strong force.

Ball ran between the backs, and drove in a hard shot which Yuill could only turn past the upright for a corner. Crompton took the flag-kick and Ball headed the ball down to the feet of ROBERTS, who smashed it into the net, Yuill again being hopelessly beaten.

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JUST before this, there had been a scene in the middle of the field when the referee refused Millwall's claims for a penalty kick, but nothing could make him alter his decision.

The anger of the crowd, senseless because none was in a better position than the official, to see if there were an infringement, found vent in continuous demonstration to the end of the game.

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MILLWALL'S attacks were never lacking in fierceness, and perhaps would have been successful had the players kept their heads. On the other hand, the Town players maintained their steadiness, both in defence and attack, and a fourth goal came to place the issue beyond doubt. Roberts and Stephenson worked through on the left, and the former drove across goal; Yuill came out to forestall Ball and beat the ball away, but it went straight to BELL, who shot first time, and with success, before the goalkeeper could recover.

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THE only unpleasantness in the game was that caused by the spectators and the home players. One or two of the Millwall team showed their dislike for failure in a way that might have brought reprisals. The referee had a difficult task, and did it well.

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CHIEF honours were earned by the Town defence. Coen was again a great goalkeeper, and his backs were superb. Smith played finely against a clever winger, and Mackey was at his best. They owed a great deal to Thayne, who barred the way to the Millwall inside forwards. Brown and Fraser heartily joined in the work.

It can be safely claimed that the defence has never had a more severe trial nor a more successful result.

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THE forwards when they could get support from the halves, did remarkably well, and it was good to see more of a line than usual. The inside wingers kept up, and the combination was skilful.

Roberts, the new player had a successful debut, and when familiar with the play of the others, will be a valuable asset.

Everyone played well and pluckily against a desperate opposition.

LUTON TOWN 4

(Ball (2), Roberts, Bell).

MILLWALL ATHLETIC 1

(McCARTNEY)

MILLWALL ATHLETIC.—Yuill; Walsh, Turnbull; Newcomb, Hancock, Miller; McCartney, Alexander, Yardley, Harkins, Thorogood.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Smith, Mackey; Brown, Thayne, Fraser; Crompton, Bell, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee.—E. C. Carnwell, Lichfield.