

LUTON PULL UP

After Being Three Goals Down at Southend

(By "CRUSADER")

LUTON TOWN accomplished a fine feat at Southend in bringing away a point. Meeting a team desperately anxious to move away from the bottom of the League, and that on a ground that was the worst any Luton team has played on since the war, they were three goals down soon after the interval. Then they had the misfortune to have Mackey ordered off the field for protesting against a decision by the referee, and few could have expected they had a chance left.

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NOT so the players. They gave their best display when the cloud was heaviest, and, not only drew level, but also came very near to scoring another victory away from home. The game was played under appalling conditions, on a ground that was formerly a brickfield, which had never been turfed, but simply sown with grass seed, which did not last long after the heavy rains.

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POOLS stood beside the touch-line, and, in the middle of the field, and a corps of 30 men unloaded sand on to the pitch before the start. It was impossible to drive the ball through the mud, and so, from start to finish, there was not one really good, combined movement. The Town were the more polished side once they had found their feet, but, until then, Southend looked the more businesslike side.

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THE United made progress by swinging the ball out to the wings at every opportunity, and they opened the score with a splendid shot by STEVENS after eight minutes, and another came from a penalty-kick, given for "hands" against McGinnigle, STEVENS again scoring. The Town had hard luck on two or three occasions, notably when a shot by Stephenson was turned against the bar by Moore, but they were two goals down at the change of ends.

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SOUTHEND'S third goal came two or three minutes after the restart from

another penalty-kick, McGinnigle again being adjudged to have handled in the penalty area, although it was generally agreed that the handling was accidental. Moreover, he appeared to be outside the penalty area. The protests of the Town players led to Mackey being ordered off. STEVENS scored from the penalty-kick.

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THEREAFTER, with Payne at right-back and Stephenson at right-half, the Town gave of their best, and, after repeated attacks had just failed, Stephenson and Ball paved the way for BELL to open their account. A shot by Ball struck the bar, and Bell netted the rebound. Shortly afterwards, a corner on the right wing was taken by Crompton, and BALL headed the ball past Moore, who made a frantic but unavailing effort to save.

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BOTH goals had escapes afterwards, but the Town were always playing the better football, and Ball was twice brought down in the penalty area. However, the equalising goal came as the result of a magnificent shot by CROMPTON, eight minutes from the end. He took the ball on the run, and, although forced out to a difficult angle, he shot with tremendous power, and the ball struck the underside of the bar, and flashed past Moore.

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ALL the Town played really well when they had the biggest handicap, but conditions were such that any detailed criticism would be of little service. It might be said, however, that Joe Payne, making his debut in League football at left-half, and later playing at right-back when Mackey was off, showed up splendidly.

SOUTHEND UTD. 3

Stevens 3 (2 penalties)

LUTON TOWN 3

Bell, Ball, Crompton.

SOUTHEND.—Moore; Smith, Robinson; Carr, Wilson (J.), Morfitt; Barrow, Cheesmur, Stevens, Deacon, Oswald.

LUTON.—Coen; Smith, Mackey; Brown, McGinnigle, Payne; Crompton, Bell, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee.—Mr W. J. Lewington, Croydon.