

OUT OF THE CUP

Luton Go Down Gallantly at Burnley

(By "CRUSADER")

LUTON TOWN failed to repeat at **BURNLEY** the fine performance they had given to dismiss Chelsea from the F.A. Cup Competition.

To their defeat the main contributory causes were the compulsory reorganisation of the defence, which, while playing as well as could be expected, failed to appreciate the incisiveness of one player in the Burnley attack, the centre-forward, Cecil Smith.

Had the Town defenders been as alert as was he, then Burnley would not have scored a goal.

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FACING the bitterest of north winds, blowing very strongly almost straight down the very heavy pitch, Luton did remarkably well to be on even terms at the change-over, and so well had they played that, on every hand, was heard the opinion that Burnley were beaten.

Even the Burnley players themselves thought so, but they turned out to prove that all these ideas were wrong, and to their different methods, their determination and whole-heartedness, aided by rather loose play in the Town defence, could victory be attributed.

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PLAY was even in the early stages, each goalkeeper having anxiety, but it was a shock for the Luton supporters at the end of nine minutes when the home team took the lead. It was a rather sort goal, although the scorer, **CECIL SMITH**, deserved praise for the way he slipped among the rattling Town defenders, and shot the ball past Coen, while the latter was half-waiting for one of his colleagues to clear. That lead was short-lived, however, for **STEPHENSON**, who had been a trying proposition to Burnley from the start, made a determined effort, and although momentarily checked, recovered the ball to shoot a grand goal from over 20 yards' range.

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IT was a hectic struggle right to the change of ends, the ball travelling very quickly, and the Town backs and halves showing such determination that Coen had not a great deal more work than Scott. Indeed, the best chances went to the Town, and clever work by Ball and Stephenson gave Roberts two openings, Scott saving finely on each occasion. The second save was the best of the afternoon, for the ball appeared certain to find the net right away from the goalkeeper, when he dived and deflected it.

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THE Town were playing better towards the interval, and giving the home defence a lot of trouble, and it seemed likely that they would score several times, but Richmond and Waterfield defended gamely, and so the teams crossed over on level terms.

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THERE was another story in the second half. Burnley swung the ball about much better, and they were dangerous almost from the kick-off.

The Town players failed to appreciate the value of quick and lusty clearances that would enable their forwards to make progress, and, while there were a few thrills near the Burnley goal, there were more at the other end.

The culmination came when Hornby got across a low centre right into goal; Coen seemed to have the ball safe, but he was rushed by Cecil Smith, and lost it, and **HANCOCK**, who had closed in, was able to score easily.

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THE Town played well against this reverse, Fraser especially doing splendid work, but the forwards did not carry on so well against a defence that was

always confident and strong, and, although several shots were made, Scott had no undue task. Burnley's third goal also came as a result of a lapse by the Town defence. The ball was swung over from the right, and Coen appeared to turn it aside; it was returned in front of goal, and no one could kick clear, with the result that **G. BROWN** shot hard into the net.

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THE Town never gave up trying, but they were always playing against the collar after this. Scott made a few good saves, notably twice when he lifted the ball over the bar, but chances were missed, Crompton being at fault two or three times. On the other hand, Burnley, when they got away, gave Coen plenty of work, and it was not until the last few minutes that the Town looked like saving the game. Crompton missed a good chance, but, later, dribbled across to the middle of the field and drove in a magnificent shot which Scott just touched on to the bar, whence it rebounded.

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THIS was about the last incident worth note, and the game ended with Burnley good winners on their second-half display. They had taken advantage of their opportunities.

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COEN made some good saves, but was blameworthy on at least two of the occasions when the home team scored. Nevertheless, he has been such a grand goalkeeper that one could sympathise with him on this occasion, especially as he could not have had a great deal of confidence in the changes that had been made just in front of him, though I hold the view that they were the best that could be made in the circumstances.

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THAYNE did not let the side down as a full-back, although I am sure everybody prefers to see him operate at centre-half. Smith put up a very useful game, but was not so sure in his tackling as he usually is, and his kicking again lacked strength and direction. Brown and Fraser played fine football at half, and the latter was again at his best, and strove valiantly to pull his team together when things were at their worst. McGinnigle played hard as ever, and was a trier all the time, but had a warm handful in Cecil Smith.

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THE forwards were not so well together as usual, and the right-wing pair did not play nearly so well as in the previous round. The best work came from Ball, who was not given much elbow room by W. Smith, but managed to give his left wing a lot of work. Roberts played finely all through, his best game to date, and Stephenson put up a really good exhibition again, and, with any luck, this pair might have won the match.

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BURNLEY would probably have been well beaten had the Town been at full strength, and they owed a good deal to the luck of the draw, which gave them the advantage of playing at Turf Moor, which, as someone said, wanted more turf. Scott was a capable goalkeeper, and the backs were sound. The middlemen were all hard workers, and of a fast, if not very brilliant attack, G. Brown was the pick, for he was a craftsman of first class. The attendance was 26,727, and the receipts £1,479.

BURNLEY 3
Smith (C.), Hancock, Brown (G.)

LUTON TOWN 1
Stephenson.

BURNLEY.—Scott; Richmond, Waterfield; Brown (J.), Smith (W.), Robinson; Hancock, Brown (G.), Smith (C.), Hornby, Downes.

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

Referee.—Mr. H. N. Mee, Nottingham.