

Luton's Cup-tie

WHAT THE CRITICS SAID:

It was haphazard football for most of the time at Burnley, but, in the end, the home side won deservedly, and more convincingly than once seemed probable. Coen did well in goal, but the backs often lacked understanding, and the half-backs failed to hold the home attack in the second half. Luton had an enterprising set of forwards well led by Ball. Most of the danger came from Roberts and Stephenson, the last-named being about the best forward on view. Luton were well beaten, but, if Scott had not saved that shot by Roberts, the story may have been vastly different.—“Sunday Chronicle.”

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Congratulations are called for, as Luton proved themselves, in the first half especially, a more formidable force than had perhaps been anticipated. Some of their passing movements in a hectic first half were really brilliant. Odd ones were checked by an understanding defence, but there were some which appeared completely to baffle certain of the players in the Burnley rearguard. It was fortunate that Scott, in the emergencies which came to him, was both enterprising and cool. It became evident very early in the game that Luton were going to need something better from Burnley than was demanded by Mansfield a fortnight ago. But second-half honours were with Burnley. They had enterprise, speed, and dash, and played against the wind as Luton had done in the first half, far better than they did with wind advantage. It was evidently altogether too blustery for them to use it.—“Northern Sports Telegraph.”

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Burnley's superior craft and incisiveness in attack earned them the victory at T. Moor. They went in the lead early, when Smith (C.) snapped up a long clearance from Richmond, and shot from an angle with the keeper out of position. Luton had fighting qualities, but greater strength at half-back enabled Burnley to resist their challenge.—“The People.”

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Luton could not repeat their noted success over Chelsea. Burnley refused to be mastered, and, playing with a fine swing that introduced many clever touches, finished as good winners.—“News of the World.”

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FAMOUS PLAYER'S VIEW

Gallant Luton, conquerors of Chelsea in the previous round, failed at Burnley just when the crowd was expecting them to make a big effort to build on their capital first-half performance. Though facing a strong and icy-cold wind, they were level at the interval, and it seemed an odds-on chance that they would make the pace afterwards, especially as they were then playing down the slope. But, as so often happens, the team playing against the wind played the better football. Luton's captain, Fraser, at left-half, McGinnigle, centre-half, and Stephenson were outstanding, with Thayne a good emergency left-back. Crompton generally parted with the ball too soon at outside-right, but this son of the famous old Blackburn international back atoned

somewhat late in the game when he struck the crossbar with a shot which Scott touched.—Billy Meredith in the “Sunday Pictorial.”

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A goalkeeper's error in throwing himself down too soon and missing a Burnley player's centre caused Luton to lose their second goal at Turi Moor just when everyone expected the southern team to become pacemakers. This was the turning point in a hard and thrilling game, and nine minutes later Burnley made themselves safe with a third goal. —“Sunday Dispatch.”

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Burnley gave their supporters something of a fright by letting Luton knock them off their game and getting definitely on top in the first half, in play, if not in scores. Luton played better than Burnley, and the work of their left wing pair, Stephenson and Roberts, was delightful to watch. Had the rest of the attack been as clever and as successful, Burnley would undoubtedly have gone out of the Cup. As it was, Luton, perhaps, lost some of their advantage by keeping play almost wholly on the left wing, and so the Burnley defence were able to concentrate more attention to it. Burnley had had the assistance of a strong wind, and, on changing round it was expected they would have things go hard with them, but there was a surprising change, for Burnley became more like their old selves and displayed better methods. They scored twice in 20 minutes through Hancock and G. Brown. The Luton goalkeeper, Coen, was caught napping in both instances.—“Empire News.”

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It was due to their stamina that Burnley pulled the game round in their favour after experiencing a very poor first half. Luton were a far more impressive team before the interval, and it is conceivable that had Roberts accepted the finest chance of the match just before the interval that Burnley would have had a difficult job on to save the game. Luton fought a brave fight, their left wing, Roberts and Stephenson, combining magnificently, while, until they tired in the second half, Smith, Fraser, and McGinnigle were a fine defensive trio.—“Sunday Graphic.”

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Even the most optimistic Burnley supporters looked gloomy at half-time, when Luton were on equal terms. As a matter of fact, the visitors confounded everybody during the opening half. With a stiff wind behind them, Burnley had started in great style by scoring a goal through C. Smith, but, a few minutes later, Stephenson tricked four opponents to get a gem or a goal. More and more Luton took charge of the game, and, when the interval came, Burnley seemed to have been definitely overplayed. They had made no use at all of the wind, and the forwards were not at all confident. On resuming, however, they were an entirely different team. Making the most of their speedy wings was a policy that changed the whole complexion of the game from the restart. To the end it was almost all Burnley. Their pull in stamina kept them going. But the visitors never gave up, and had they not relied too much on Stephenson and Roberts, they might have done better. Undoubtedly, this wing played well, and, later on, when they gave Crompton a chance, we saw a Luton revival, but it was staged too late.—“News Chronicle.”