

EXETER NOT ECLIPSED

FOUR GOALS FLATTERED LUTON TOWN

Ball's Hat Trick

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	4
(Ball 3, Stephenson)	
EXETER CITY	0
LUTON.—Coen; Smith, Mackey; Brown, McGinnigle, Thayne; Crompton, Bell, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.	
EXETER.—Chesters; Smith, Miller; Risdon, Webb, Angus, Scott (J.), Wrightson, Poulter, Tierney, Hurst.	
Referee: Mr. F. J. Lowe, Bristol.	

LUTON TOWN thoroughly deserved their splendid victory over EXETER CITY, but the score hardly does justice to the hard and vallant game put up by the City. Once more it was a good, clean fight, plenty of vigour without dirty tricks, and neither team had cause for reproach from that aspect.

Exeter certainly proved that they are a warm proposition away from home, fought keenly and earnestly throughout, and were unlucky to depart without a goal. They discovered weakness in the Town defence, and had their finishing been as good as their approach, would have scored at least twice. The margin of four goals was somewhat flattering to the Town.

Again the Town forwards proved to be the brightest part of the team, but if nothing else was made clear, it was obvious that Thayne was not cut out for a flank half position. That was a glaring weakness in the middle line, and the reflection was sometimes seen in defence.

STICKY TURF

The ground was troublesome, for there was no life in it, and again and again the ball failed to move over the sticky turf, and not only were good forward moves spoilt for this reason, but Thayne seemed to suffer the worst of all the players from this disadvantage.

Quickly the Town forwards came into action, and twice Ball could not make the ball do anything on the dead turf as it came to him in a good position, and he lost it. Then Exeter struck back, their left wing being lively, and there was a thrill when Hurst beat Coen with a fast cross-shot as the goalkeeper moved from goal, but Mackey had wisely fallen back and saved the situation.

BALL'S PENALTY

McGinnigle did splendid defensive work when the City made further attacks, and the Town forwards had their turn, the right wing being conspicuous.

Bell snapped up a pass and was going straight for goal when Miller tripped him just inside the penalty area, and from the resultant penalty kick, BALL scored, though his hard, low shot was partly stopped by a brilliant attempt to save by Chesters.

The Town were attacking for some minutes, but without effect, and the City came again and did good work, giving McGinnigle and his backs any amount of trouble. Coen, however, had nothing very difficult to deal with, though he had to be on the alert for Poulter.

There was a swift rush by the Town, in which Bell was prominent, after Stephenson's forceful work had jeopardised the City goal, and the inside-right twice shot with terrific force, the first effort striking a defender and the second flashing past the upright.

The crowd resented the several times Crompton was flagged offside by one of the linesmen, but the official was keeping well up the field with the winger.

SMITH'S MOVE

Coen had to dive for a hard, low shot by Scott, sent in from an acute angle, and did well to get the ball round the post, and there followed a period of fairly even exchanges, though the Town appeared the more dangerous in front of goal.

Brown did much clever work to no purpose, but Smith paved the way for the second goal when he came up well and dribbled through a gap in the middle before hitting the ball well over the heads of the opposition to STEPHENSON, who was unmarked; the winger, against whom there was a half-hearted appeal for offside, was fairly close in, and made no mistake.

The Town came near adding to their lead several times before the City were again dangerous, and the Town goal escaped rather luckily shortly before the cross-over for the interval.

LUTON	2
EXETER	0

Smith, who had been playing well, held up the City left wing nicely, and some of his work was high class. The Town set up hot attacks, and Chesters was frequently in action, and made good saves. However, the City forwards persisted, and, apart from occasional raids, there was a quiet period for the Town forwards.

Coen saved from Scott and Poulter, while Wrightson and Hurst shot badly when well placed.

Bell had to go off for a few minutes, but his return was a signal for a revival of the Town attack, and, from then to the end they were masters, apart from one assault by the City in which Coen brought off a great save from the persistent Poulter.

BALL AGAIN

Brown initiated a move on the right, and, after the ball had hovered about the City goal for a few seconds, Crompton muddled; BALL seized, and, although his shot had not much power, it sneaked just inside the upright, giving Chesters no chance.

The City defence was hard worked, and Chesters made good saves from Crompton and Bell, and Roberts and Stevenson each went very close. The finishing of the Town was not so good, but they attacked repeatedly, and Chesters and his backs were seldom idle. Once Crompton put the ball right in front of goal, and it moved slowly across but no forward could touch it past Chesters.

The City goalkeeper brought off a wonderful save from Bell whose shot was travelling straight for the net at great

speed when the custodian shot up a fist and sent the ball against the bar, and then cleverly caught the rebound.

A "HAT-TRICK"

Now and then the City attacked, but there was not a lot of sting in their finishing, and eventually the Town notched the fourth goal. It was brought about by Stephenson, who took a pass and rushed past three opponents before centreing right across goal; Crompton headed the ball back, and BALL nodded it into the net.

There was nothing very interesting after this, and the game ended rather tamely.

TOWN DEFENCE

It was well that the Town rearguard kept alert to the possibilities of the City attack. Coen had not a great deal of work, but there were two or three occasions when he only saved by really fine judgment and agility. Smith played a clever game, and, if only his kicking were as good as his resourcefulness, he would be a champion. Mackey played a quietly-effective game, and was distinctly at a disadvantage owing to the weakness of the left-half.

Thayne has played splendid games as pivot, but was clearly out of place. The ball never ran kindly for him, but he did not seem to have the pace or the judgment for the position; in the second half he made desperate efforts, and, whatever his failings, always had the saving quality of being a tremendous trier. It takes a good man to substitute adequately for Fraser.

McGinnigle played splendidly in defence, and got through two men's work, many times racing out to hold up the right-wingers who had broken through. Brown played magnificently in his last game for the club.

FORWARDS

The forwards also suffered by the absence of Fraser. They played somewhat patchily, but there were many flashes of brilliance, such as no defence can withstand. Against a less powerful rearguard, they would have doubled their score in the last 20 minutes. The more I see of Roberts and Bell the more they fascinate, and, with Ball always on the move, the wing forwards get their share of the ball. The attack, as a whole, is almost good enough for anything.

CITY'S BEST

Chesters kept goal splendidly, and, both Smith and Miller fought hard at back. I liked the manner in which the City halves threw themselves into their jobs, too, and there was much cleverness in the front line, though weak in front of goal. Poulter would be a very dangerous leader if allowed any rope, and Wrightson was conspicuous for much skilful initiation.

The attendance was very good considering other attractions, and there being 8,385 paying 4s/ 1s. 2d. for admission.