

WATFORD FOILED

Last Minute Equaliser for Luton But Well Deserved

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN accomplished yet another fine performance when they visited and secured a point from Watford after a gruelling struggle. In spite of the adverse weather conditions, there were thousands of followers for the Town, and they had some compensation for their journey, though they thought the Town deserved rather more than they received.

THE game was contested in good spirit, with only a few infringements, but plenty of life and vigour and both teams showed evidence of hard training for the fight, maintaining a very fast pace right to the final whistle. From this aspect, the Town, perhaps, showed up the better, for they were pressing severely for the last quarter of an hour, and the equaliser was only deferred owing to the fine goalkeeping of McLaren.

IN the early stages, play was fairly even, but Coen had the more work when the teams became warmed up. The first really dangerous moment came when Ball slipped between the backs only to be brought down as he was on the point of shooting, and a loud appeal for a penalty was ignored. The Town were giving back as much as they had received at this stage, and McLaren evoked tremendous cheers with a magnificent save from Crompton.



Ball

WATFORD took the lead immediately after this. Rattray got clean through on the right, and, with plenty of time to centre, he placed the ball well in front for LANE to beat Coen with a splendid first-time shot. Roberts was foiled in an immediate effort to obtain the equalising goal, and for some time the Town pressed hotly, but met a very sound defence.

ONCE Stephenson dribbled through and turned the ball across the front of goal past McLaren, but Woodward knocked the ball behind as Martin closed in, and again the appeal for a penalty was refused, although the referee consulted the linesman. However, the scores were brought level with the last kick before the change of ends. Crompton centred just too high for McLaren to seize the ball, but he knocked it to the feet of BALL, who promptly scored.

WATFORD	1
LUTON TOWN	1

LUTON resumed well, but were soon driven back and there was very hot pressure on the Town goal, Coen making many fine saves. McLaren also came into action at the other end, and there was an insistent attack during which the home goalkeeper made good saves, and Brown kicked away from the goal-line when Ball headed in, while Smith put a powerful shot just too high.

WATFORD again secured the lead when LOWE, who was always dangerous, got the better of Mackey as the latter fell, and scored with a very fast shot which passed just inside the post. After this there was again a lot of work for Coen, and he made clever saves. Several corners were forced, and the Town defenders had all their work cut out to avert a score.

WHEN the Town got moving again the linesman's flag robbed Ball of a certain goal as he swept past Woodward when the latter failed to take a high, bouncing ball, tricked the goalkeeper, and had the goal at his mercy. The offside decision was not relished by the Luton crowd, though cheered to the echo by the home supporters.

AS the game proceeded, Luton increased their pressure, and the home defenders frequently found touch. McLaren brought off brilliant saves from Martin and Roberts in quick succession, and, again and again, the Town forwards were thwarted when success seemed certain. However, a few seconds only remained for play when the ball came over from the right, and, with Woodward failing to cover BALL, for once the centre-forward managed to slip it past the advancing goalkeeper into the net.

ON the whole, the result could be regarded as a fair indication of the run of the play, though Luton supporters would take a good deal of reconciling to the fact that two apparently sound appeals for penalty-kicks were refused. Coen kept goal well, and Kingham had one of his best days, but Mackey had to meet the more determined opposition.

AT half, there was not much to choose: all three put in all they knew. Thayne kept a close watch on Lane, and, if Smith

had rather more than he could manage in the first half, he did remarkably well in the second. Colquhoun gave a skilful display, and had no superior.

THE Town forwards played grandly to a man. They were working hard all the time, and, as a line, they showed rather better control than the home forwards. At any rate, they were more consistent in their work, and there was no wild booting of the ball, but their combination was always good to watch. Ball led them with his customary zeal and skill, and Roberts and Martin played well to their leader and their partners. The only flaw was that there was not quite enough shooting.

McLAREN kept goal grandly for the homesters, and Brown and Lewis were lusty backs, with the latter the cooler. Woodward played a powerful game as a third back, for he was seldom out of his own penalty area, though, for that matter, neither was Thayne. Lowe and Lane were the best of the forwards, Rattray spoiling much good work by poor use of the ball.

THERE were 10,660 spectators, and the receipts were £386.

WATFORD	2
Lane, Lowe	
LUTON TOWN	2
Ball (2)	

WATFORD—McLaren; Brown, Lewis (D.); Findlay, Woodward, Davies (T.); Rattray, Lowe, Lane, Devan, Davies (W.)

LUTON.—Coen; Kingham, Mackey; Colquhoun, Thayne, Smith; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.
Referee: R. G. Rudd, Kenton.