DEFENCE COLLAPSED : LUTON'S AMAZING DEFEAT AT HOME

TAIT AND HAYHURST SHINE FOR READING

(B) " CRUSADER ") (Barley, Tart, Liddle 2) ITTON TOWN Stephenson Crompton

LUTON TOWN -- Coen: Kingham, Mickey, Colquboun, Thayne, Smith: Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephen-

READING — Wildman : Boyle, Robson : Johnson Hayburst, Wright : Liddle McGough, Tait Barley, Chandler, Referee.—Mr. 1. Smith, Atherstone.

N most of Luton Town's home matches during their line run of success. I have had to say in the course of the reports that there were periods of shakiness in the detence. Away from home this has not been so apparent, which is somewhat carious. On Saturday the very fine crowd of nearly 12,000 had no illusions about it. shaky at first, then recovering in some degree, then wobbly again, and finally collapsing as though of the flimsiest stuff.

PRAISE FOR READING

Reading deserve the very highest praise for their gallant recovery, a wonderful liuish when the odds were all against them, and, if they were not cleverer as a side they certainly were a better team and snowed greater spirit as a whole than Luton. With the exceptions of Coen and Rution. With the exceptions of Coen and Kingham, and, in some measure Colquinoun, the Town defence failed, and it was hard luck on the forwards that their plucky efforts to establish a lead were nullined

THE SHINING LIGHT

thrills, and it was some time before the Town got anything like a grip on the game. In these carly stages Kingham was a shining light, and he recognised the necessity of prompt and vigorous tackling and first-time clearances. Well led by Tait. the visitors bore down on the Town goal again and again, and the home haives were often beaten for pace and position. again and again, and the home haives and several corners were forced, and Wilder were corner beaten for pace and position, and has had hairs full frequency, but were nown as corn and to do was not alltile too far before trying a shot, and such work as Corn had to do was not alltile too far before trying a shot, and such work as Corn had to do was not alltile too far before trying a shot, and such work as Corn had to do was not alltile too far before trying a shot, and such work as Corn had to do was not alltile too far before trying a shot, and such work as Corn had to do was not alltile too far before trying a shot, and such work as Corn had to do was not alltile too far before trying a shot, and splendid chance and then, in a week on which and a splendid chance and then, in a work of the shot was not given any difficult shot, the corn was not given any difficult shot, and the shot was not given any difficult shot. It is not the corn was not given any difficult shot, the corn was not given any difficult shot.

Reading began at a pace that meant

recklessly when a quiet pass would have been of service to his forwards.

HAVIRURST A BARRIER

Gradually, the Town forwards found their bearings, and once Ball swung off to the right with Hayhurst in full chase; the Town centre-forward tricked his opponent brilliantly, and centred across goal but there was nobody in postion to accept except defenders. Wildman cleared goal but there was no looky in position to accept except defenders. Wildman cleared well when Martin shot from long range, and Hayhurst's tall figure staved off a lot of trouble by his good headwork. Liddle of trouble by his good headwork. Liddle and Chaidler each showed pace, and the and Chaidler each showed pace, and the chaines. A fine drive by Martin troubled Wildman, who managed to parry the ball, but could not hold it but Stephenson's drive the ball well up among the forwards, but Kingham was doing the more skilful but Kingham was doing the more skilful wark, and once he held up the lively Tait wark, and once he held up the hvely Tait with a great tackle.

The Town now had the better of the exchanges, but could not break through a whole-hearted defence Colquhoun,

Martin, and Crompton gave the visitors wide. McGough was prominent with forceful and skilful work, and, in a quick burst to the other end. Roberts was heavily brought down by Hayhurst, but the claim for a penalty kick was negatived.

STEPHENSON'S GOAL

There was not the understanding among the Town forwards that we have been accustomed to for so long, but they were working hard against a resolute defence, and several corners were forced, and Wild-

heeded and the Town went to the other. Coen, From this point Liddle did much card. The Dail came seroes to the lett, and STEPHENSON tore up, and put in a triffice shot, Hayhurst fluing himself at the ball, which struck his head, and the ball, which struck his head, and the ball, which struck his head, and to cooled, and once he careered to the triffice shot of the Town, Kingham again saved the Town by his quickness in holding up the Reading left, and the interval found the a hard shot, which struck Thaye's head the control of the left, drove in the struck Thaye's head and shot which struck Thaye's head Town ahead.

LUTON TOWN

The Town resumed in better style, and were soon peacing the Rending rearguard Marth only just failing with a
nice shot that had Wildman beaten, but
passed just wide. Corners were forece
battling finely, but a third corner was
successful, for Stephenson's flag-kick went
over the heads of the defenders, and
CRO MFON rushed up to to lead a fine goal
of the control of the control of the control
finely but a good effort. The Town
leader was playing weil, but his left winy
did not come up to the mark. Then Coen
shot round the post. Crompton should
have done better than shoot straight at
the soalkeeper after Coluptoun had payed were soon pestering the Reading rear-guard. Martin only just failing with a the goalkeeper after Colquboun had paved the way with a move that had the visitors the way with a move that had the visitors all at sea, but the shot went straight to the goalkeeper, who got his fists to the ball and turned it aside. Crompton was frustrated just in time a moment later, and the visitors were very hard pressed.

TAIT'S PERSISTENCE

However, they delivered their goal, and then the whole team made desperate efforts to beat down the Town defence. and Smith each did good work, and and Smith each did good work, and kingham refused to be beaten by Chandler. The latter eventually got the ball into the Town goal, but thoughtfully passed back for BaRLEY, who had moved to the inside-right position, to take a clear shot at goal, and Coen was beaten. This put the visitors on their mettle, and after a swift assault. on their nettre, and atter a swin assault, no said to the total to the worked very hard.

READING'S HANDICAP

and rebounded from the upright for a corner.

CETHER.

THE INSTE SAUE

THE INSTE SAUE

and the second of the ball, they arely looked
like breaking down the opposition. Once,
like breaking down the opposition. Once,
defenders and sent the ball in Iron but
Boyle darted in and lunged the ball
behind. The flag kick was got away, and
and the second of the sec trouble.

DISAPPOINTING DEFENCE

It was a tremendous disappointment to the Town supporters, who really gave Reading full credit for their opportunism. So, also, did they hercely criticise the failures in the lown defence. Coen had no chance with the balls that beat him, and though he had not a great deal to do otherwise, his work was safe and clean. Kingham was the best back on the field; now and then he was beaten, as are the best of players, but his kicking and tackling best of players, but his kirking and tacking were safe, and he showed good judgment throughout. The same cannot be said of Mackey, and his second-half failure was tragic. In the first half he had held his wing very well, but afterwards Liddle beat him with amazing ease, and it was from this quarter that the trouble came chiefly. MIDDLE MEN
Thavne played well up to a point, but

any played well up to a point, but was not so vigilant in his watchfulness of Tait as was Hayhurst against Ball. Colquhoun was the best of the halves, because he always did something with the because he always did something with the bail for the service of his forwards, and so the right will was again the better, the showed that the bail could be kept down to advantage. Smith was too venture-some. He wanted to do such a lot of work that often he left a gap on his side of the field. He did fine work in defence, and tried hard to make amends for the comparative impotence of the left wing. but it was not always to the good of the side.

FORWARDS

The left wing was not nearly so good as usual. Stephenson could do little right, though he did not receive the ball nicely very often. Roberts also was spanned in his success but a trier all the time, as also was Ball, and the centre-forward was good enough to try and give his colleagues opportunities by drawing very often. Roberts also was spasmodic colleagues opportunities by drawing Hayhurst out of position. Martin again did well, and Crompton got over good centres, the right being the more skilful wing.

READING'S BEST Wildman proved a good custodian for Reading, and his backs, without being particularly impressive, were reliable, and tackled strongly. Hayhurst was the inspira-tion of the defence, for he worked tremendously hard and never yielded an inch mendously hard and never yleided an inch
unless it were wise to do so. His colleagues
backed him up well. The forwards had
pace and no little skill. I liked McGough
as well as any, though all the inside men
were good, and the wingers also made up
a well-balanced line, with Liddle very clever
in Jootowick, and his two goals were nearly the best solo efforts seen on the ground this