# LUTON TOWN TAKE FIVE POINTS OUT OF EIGHT

## Newport Twice Beaten, but Northampton Proved Too Hot

(By "CRUSADER")

On Friday at Newport:

LUTON TOWN ..... 4
(Martin, Crompton, Stephenson, Ball).
NEWPORT COUNTY ..... 2
(Davies 2).

NEWPORT COUNTY.—Emery; Robinson, Russell, Whitehouse; Davies, Burgess; Reynolds, White, Haycox, A. Clarke, Thomas.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Kingham, Reece; Colquhoun, Thayne, Smith; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee.—B. C. White, Nuneaton.

At Northampton on Saturday:

NORTHAMPTON TOWN ..... 2
(Cochrane 2).
LUTON TOWN ..... 1
(Ball).

NORTHAMPTON.—Cave; Bennett, Dawes; Brown (A.), McGuire, Higgins; Brown (R.), Cochrane, Bell, Holland, Lyman.

LUTON.—As above.

Referee.—W. J. Lewington, Croydon.

At Luton on Monday:

LUTON TOWN ..... 4
(Crompton 3, Martin).
NEWPORT COUNTY ..... 1
(Weaver).

LUTON.—As above.

NEWPORT COUNTY.—Williamson; Robinson, Cook; Davies, Davies, Burgess; Weaver, White, Haycox, Paget, Thomas.

Referee.—B. C. White, Nuneaton.

At Luton on Tuesday:

LUTON TOWN ..... 2
(Ball 2).
NORTHAMPTON TOWN ..... 2
(Bell, Lyman).

LUTON.—Coen; Kingham, Reece; Colquhoun, Thayne, Kidd; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

NORTHAMPTON.—Cave; Bennett, Dawes; Riches, McGuire, Melville; Lyman, Brown (R.), Bell, Holland, Wells.

Referee.—W. J. Lewington, Croydon.

Luton Town played four games in five days, two at home and two away. They just survived a defeat on Monday, the four matches, taking the full complement of points from home and from Newport, leaving only one against Northampton. All four games should have been won on the balance of play, but the Luton forwards failed to press home their attacks at Northampton, the defence was responsible for the failure at home on Tuesday.

## WIN AT NEWPORT

Visiting Newport on Friday, the Town proved unlucky in the matches they had been given a few lively passages, and they did not get well on top until the second half.

On a very bad pitch, which grew worse under the almost continuous downpour, play was fairly even in the first half. Each goal had narrow escapes, and Roberts struck the Newport woodwork before HAYCOX netted after Coen had been compelled to come again. The Town played better afterwards, and after much exciting play MARTIN scored a splendid equaliser.

In the second half Newport goals were often in danger, and eventually CROMPTON put Luton ahead. Coen replied with fierce work, and HAYCOX again brought the scores level. However, by fine, open play the Luton forwards dominated, and STEPHENSON again put them in front, and BALL made the issue safe.

## LOSE AT NORTHAMPTON

On Saturday the match at Northampton was an even affair for the first half, but Northampton forwards showed better on the heavy and treacherous ground. Luton had quite as many opportunities, but they did not finish so well. Early on, Stephenson struck the upright, but both goalkeepers could have had much more work.

COCHRANE scored after thirty-five minutes with a very fine shot, following good work on the right wing, and for some time after Luton Town was hard pressed.

COCHRANE added a second goal with another brilliant effort, and in the closing stages of this half, the Town goal had more escape. In the second half adopted the right methods in shooting hard and often.

After the change of ends the balance of play was with the Town, but the forwards kept the ball too close, and found the home rearguard well nigh impassable. The Cobblers were very dangerous in the final half, but plenty of work, and did it well.

In the last twenty minutes the Town pressed very hard indeed. Luton's the home forwards making only rare incursions into the Luton quarter, but their defence made trouble when they did. After many failures the Town scored three minutes from the end through BALL, than whom none more deserved it.

## WIN AT HOME

Newport put up as plucky a game as any opponents the Town have had this season, and the crowd fully recognised their never-say-die spirit, although the odds were against the visitors from the start.

They began in a manner which showed no sign of internecine rivalry, for within two minutes they had scored through WEAVER, a smashing drive which Coen could not save.

Thereafter they made occasional raids, but, for the most part, kept their defence busy trying to hold a masterful attack. The equalising goal came from CROMPTON very quickly, the opening being provided by Ball, and five minutes later intense pressure enabled CROMPTON to score again.

Williamson kept goal finely, but the Town forwards had many chances before MARTIN scored after a shot from Ball had hit the bar, and Ball crossed over with a head of two goals.

The second half was a remarkable game. Presented with the Newport goal was continuous save for spasmodic efforts by Haycox and his wingers, which now and then caused flutters among the Town defenders.

The Town forwards missed chance after chance, the shooting being wretched, and Williamson and his backs played magnificently, while his backs and halves fought strenuously. The last goal was scored by CROMPTON, who burst through and drove in at a terrific pace.

## DRAW AT HOME

NORTHAMPTON'S visit to LUTON on Tuesday night attracted over 8,000 spectators. The visitors nearly snatched a victory in spite of the fact that they were defending for fully three-fifths of the game, and it was through this that the trouble was that the home defence was anything but safe. Luton Town attack was lacking in balance. There could be little excuse for this on the ground of overwork, for the Northampton were also playing their fourth game in five days. They were sounder in defence, and that was a good thing, for while the Luton wingers were rarely in harmony with the centre forwards, there was a persistency in attack that should have developed more goals than the brace that fell to Ball. There was not brute force either, but resourcefulness, pace in recovery, and a brilliant passing of the ball, which put the Luton van that enabled the visitors to keep down the score.

### THAYNE INJURED

Had the Luton defence been as sound, Northampton would have returned without a goal, for, in each case, and, without any reflection on Coen, the goal was poorly protected at times. In the second instance, some excuse could be found, because Thayne had been injured, and had gone to outside-left, but there was a big slice of luck in the manner in which the goal was obtained.

Both teams had changes from the eleven that met at Northampton on Saturday. Kidd made his first appearance in Luton's League side. Northampton had Riches and Melville as flank halves in place of Brown (A.) and Higgins. Lyman was brought from outside-left to the centre right, Wells returning to his old position after a long absence; Dick Brown moved to inside-right vice Cochrane.

### TOWN PRESSURE

Ball won the toss, and the visitors faced the declining sun. The "Cobblers" were the first away, and Reece, waiting for a first away, and was almost taken by surprise by Lyman, but managed to neutralise the ball away. There was a long pass up the home right, and Ball chased it, and shot many yards too high. A faulty pass by Stephenson enabled Lyman to take possession, and Roberts made clever work by Kidd and Reece placed the ground, but Stephenson's attempt at a centre was very poor, and Riches took possession. Roberts was fouled, and Reece placed the free kick well, but Ball headed it very nicely for Roberts to shoot weakly and wide. Roberts then compelled Bennett to give a corner, but this was got away, and Kidd was applauded for skilful construction, but it was of no avail.

### BALL GETS THERE

A dash up the right wing by Bell sent the ball right across goal, but Wells was offside, and, when Reece brought down Lyman, the free-kick was well placed, and Bell, unmarked, got in a very fine hook shot, which rose about a foot over the bar at the farther end from Coen, eleven minutes from the start came a goal. There was an intensive attack in which Lyman, Bell, and Holland were forced, following a three corners were, Martin, which sent bright move by, Martin, the ball went Stephenson through. Crompton headed back to across goal, and Martin, who shot hard; the ball Martin, who shot hard; the ball went to BALL, who promptly netted.

### CAVE CHARGED OVER

Northampton's right wing was dangerous, and a corner was cleared away with difficulty. Then Ball sent Stephenson away with a clear field, but he failed to control the ball. Play was soon back at the other end, and Coen had to run out, and punch away. Stephenson again had a chance to go through, but once more he failed to make the ball obey his intentions. There was some excitement a moment later when ball charged over Cave, and made him drop the ball. But Ball turned it in from close range, but the defenders got after a goal, but the Martins tripped on the edge of the penalty area by Bennett, and then Roberts was knocked out when he headed a hard volley by McGuire.

### A FAST PACE

The pace was fast, and Brown shot wide when he had plenty of time, and, at the other end, Stephenson passed into Cave's hands. After skilful co-operation by Roberts and Ball, the former sent in a capital shot, which flashed across the goal-mouth and travelled behind. Some of the visitors now showing signs of bad temper, and Brown was cautioned. Then Ball raced through on the right, and got across a very high centre, and Stephenson headed well for Cave to tip over. The corner-kick brought another struggle in the Northampton goal-mouth, and Dawes kicked away under the bar with Cave beaten. The visitors got away again, and left wing making the pace, and Coen had to hold a hot drive from Holland. Roberts was conspicuous with more clever work, and Martin shot wide from the pass.

### BELL RINGS

Another scrimmage took place in the "Cobblers" goal-mouth, and the ball was booted clear by the goal-line two or three times by desperate defenders. A free kick against Thayne at the other end brought anxiety, but the ball was got away. From a long pass up the middle, BELL got possession, and, though tackled by Thayne and Kingham jointly, he retained the ball, and scored with a fast ground shot right out of the reach of Coen. Reece had to concede two corners just afterwards, and the whistle came for the breather before the second could be taken.

LUTON TOWN ..... 1
NORTHAMPTON TOWN ..... 1

The Cobblers resumed strongly, Lyman sweeping the ball well over for Wells to put behind. Then Kingham came well up to dispossess the visiting left, and set his forwards on the attack, and the Northampton defence was hard pressed, but kicked and tackled sturdily. Twice Crompton put the ball across, but the goal-posts were in the way, and the ball was scrambled out. The visitors were finding touch persistently, and, even at this early stage of the second half, Bennett had to be addressed by the referee for wasting time. Bennett added insult to injury by the line with Cave beaten, and the goal-keeper saved a hot shot from Crompton. Another free kick was given against the visitors on the fringe of the penalty area, but this was deflected, and a corner kick was cleared.

### AGAIN BALL

The Town maintained the upper hand, and pressed heavily, but the "Cobblers" defended granaly, and Cave kept goal well. Thayne was injured in a hard tussle, and pulling a muscle, and he went to outside-left, Stephenson coming inside, with Roberts falling back to centre-half. Twice the latter held up rushes by the visitors, and was roundly applauded for his skilful tackling, and, in a thrust at the other end, Cave had to save from Martin. Eight minutes after the interval the Town went ahead. Crompton and Martin made the move, and the latter lifted a hard right across goal for BALL to burst between the backs and head a fine goal.

### COBBLERS' STRONG DEFENCE

This nettled the Cobblers, and they tried hard to rush the Town defence, but Roberts and Kingham plied their trade, and thwarted them again and again. Stephenson had a chance when he dribbled inside, but Brown (A.) hit him with thrown back lack of control. In another assault, Crompton headed into Cave's hands. A spell by the Cobblers left wing won a corner, and Coen was lucky to get the ball away. The Town raced away, and Stephenson swept the ball over to the right, but Cave managed to hold Crompton's effort. The visitors made one of these Martin shot, the ball striking an opponent and going behind for a fruitless corner. Cave punched out from Martin again, and during a melee, one of the defenders appeared to handle right in the goal-line, but once more the penalty claim was negatived.

### LUCKY LYMAN

Northampton got away on the left, and from a sharp cross there was a race for the ball. Kidd got there before Lyman, and kicked the ball very hard, and it rebounded at a great pace from LYMAN'S legs into the net for a lucky equaliser. The Town at once re-asserted themselves, and Ball made another great effort, his shot striking the post high up. The Town pressed strongly, making desperate efforts to get the ball past the defence, and there were fierce free-kicks and several corners followed, but without success. Crompton, who had given out passes and raced in well, but was not quick enough in finishing off, and the end came with the spoils shared.

### THE PLAYERS

The Town defence was unsteady, and clearly many of the players were upset by the firmness of the ground and the tight ball. There was still a disposition to hold it too close, whereas the visitors gave it plenty of boot, and, if anything, they showed the better pace. Coen could not be blamed for the goals, and he kept goal splendidly in the main, being more than a match for his wing. On the other hand, Reece could not hold Lyman when the latter was given possession and though he kicked well, he was uncertain in his clearing. Coldquhoun was efficient in attack, and opened up many good movements, and he and Kingham had good understanding, for the full back played well up to his half-back, and kept the danger from the left wing to a minimum.

### KIDD'S FIRST

Thayne was beaten often by Bell, and should have prevented the first goal. He did not keep such a tight hand on the former Luton player as he might have done. Kidd made a successful debut in appearance, and showed much skill in his support of the forwards, while he was quick to recover, and worked hard all through. Ball and Martin were the best of the forwards, the former playing greatly in attack, and showing much skill.

A special word is due to Roberts, who not only did well in attack, but also took the duties of centre-half temporarily with success. The Luton wingers were below their best. Crompton often beat the opposition, but did not round off his work quickly or get the ball out squarely enough, while Stephenson, though he had the pace, was all too often beaten by the inability to control a fast-moving ball.

### COBBLERS

For the Cobblers, Cave was a good goal-keeper. Bennett and Dawes played strongly at back, the latter especially doing well, being sound both in tackling and kicking. McGuire scarcely left Ball for a moment, and seemed to get rattled when the home centre-forward had scored a second goal. All the halves did well, nevertheless, and the forwards showed skill when they were on the move. Bell played really well against his old colleagues, while Holland was crafty, and Lyman showed great pace and no little skill.