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
(Haycox 2)

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

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

Referee.—B. W. Jones (Bristol).

At Northampton on Saturday:

NORTHAMPTON TOWN 2
(Cochrane 2)

LUTON TOWN 1
(Ball)

NORTHAMPTON.—Cave; Bennett, Dawes; Brown (A.), McGuire, Higgins; Brown (R.), Cochrane, Dunn, 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; Williams, Davies, Burgess; Weaver, White, Haycox, Hill, Thomas.

Referee.—B. C. White, Nuneaton.

At Luton on Tuesday:

LUTON TOWN 2
(Ball 2)

NORTHAMPTON 2
(Bell, Lyman)

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

NORTHAMPTON.—Cave; Bennett, Dawes; Richies, McGuire, Higgins; Brown (A.), Lyman, Brown (R.), Bell, Tolland, Wells.

Referee.—W. J. Lewington, Croydon.

Luton Town played four games in five days, two at home and two away. They just secured a credit balance on the four matches, with the full complement of points from Newport County, but managing only one against Northampton. All four games should have been won on the balance of play, but while the forwards failed to take full advantage of 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 much the better side after they had been in the 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 drop the ball. The Town played better after the goal, and Stephenson's close play MARTIN scored a splendid equaliser.

In the second half the Newport goal was often in danger, and eventually CROMPTON put Luton ahead. Newport replied with fierce work, and HAYCOX again brought the scores level. However, by fine, open play the Town took command, and STEPHENSON again put Luton 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 took their chances better on the heavy and treacherous ground. Luton had quite as many opportunities, but they did not finish them quite firmly on. Stephenson struck the upright, but both goalkeepers could have had much more work.

COCHRANE scored after thirty-five minutes, and a minute later, following good work on the right wing, and for some time the Town defence was hard pressed.

COCHRANE added a second goal with another minute to go, and in the closing stages of this half, the Town goal had more escapes, the home forwards adopting the right tactics in shooting hard and often.

After the change of ends the balance of play was with the Town, but the forwards kept the ball much too long, and gave the home rearguard well nigh impassable. The Cobblers were by no means idle, and Coen had quite a busy time, and did it well.

In the last twenty minutes the Town pressed almost without cessation, the home forwards making only rare incursions into the Luton quarters, but giving much trouble when they did. Over 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 on Monday recognised their yesterday's spirit, although the odds were against the visitors from the start.

They began in a manner which showed no sign of inferiority complex, for within two minutes they had scored through WEAVER, a smashing drive which Coen was helpless to save.

Newport made occasional raids, but for the most part their defence was busy rearguard, and Luton attacked. The equalising goal came from CROMPTON very quickly, the opportunity being provided by Ball, five minutes later intense pressure enabled CROMPTON to score again.

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

The second half was a remarkable game. Pressure on the Newport goal was continuous, but 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 again kept goal magnificently, while Luton 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 might attracted over 8,000 spectators. The visitors nearly snatched a victory in spite of the fact that they were completely outplayed, fully three-fifths of the game—probably the home defence was trouble enough, and the attack was anything but safe, and the attack was lacking sadly in finishing, and very little excuse for this on the grounds of overwork, for Northampton were playing their fourth game in five days. They were sounder in defence, and Luton wingers were thing, for while at Luton wingers were rarely in harmony with the inside forwards, there was a persistency in attack that should have developed more goals than the brace that fell to Ball. It was not brute courage, either, but resourcefulness, pace in recovery, and vigilant marking of the dangerous Dunn 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 one goal, and without any reflection on Coen, the one goal was purely 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 piece of luck in the manner in which the goal was obtained.

Both teams had changes from the elevens that met Northampton on Saturday. Kidd made his first appearance in Luton's league side. Northampton had Richies and Melville as flank halves in place of Brown (A.) and Higgins. Tolland was brought from outside-left to the extreme 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 first away, and Reece, waiting for a bouncing ball, was almost taken by surprise by Lyman, but managed to scramble the ball away. There was a long pass up the home right, and Ball chased it, and shot many yards too high. A fruitful pass by Stephenson enabled Lyman to make ground, but he used his hands, and clever work by Kidd and Roberts made ground, but Stephenson's attempt at a centre was poor, and Richies took possession. Roberts was fouled, and Reece placed the free kick well; Ball headed it down 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 Ball, unmarked, got in a foot over the shot, which rose about a foot over the bar at the farther end from Coen. Eleven minutes from the start came a goal, which two or three corners were forced, following a bright move by Martin, which sent Stephenson through. Twice the ball went across goal, and Crompton got the ball struck Martin, who shot hard, and went to BALL, who was defender, and promptly netted.

CAVE CHARGED OVER

Northampton's right wing was dangerous, and a corner was cleared with difficulty, and a corner was cleared away with a 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, but once more he could not finish, but once more he could not make the ball follow his intentions. There was some excitement a moment later when Ball charged over Cave, and the ball fell to drop the ball; Ball turned it in front of goal, but the shot was tripped on the scuffle. Martin was 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 game was fast, and Brown shot wide when he had plenty of time, and, at the other end, Stephenson headed into Cave's hands. Another skilful combination by Roberts and Ball, the former sent in a cracking shot, Bishop scrambled the goal-mouth and travelled behind. Some of the visitors were showing signs of bad temper, and Brown was criticised. 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 from under the bar with Cave beaten. The visitors were again, your left wing making the pace, and Coen had to hold a hot drive from Tolland. Roberts was conspicuous with more signs of work, and Martin shot wide from the pass.

BELL RINGS

Another scrimmage took place in the "Cobblers" goal-mouth, and the ball was booted away from 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 Reece, pointly, he shot hard and fast, and scored with a last ground shot right out of the range of Coen. Wells had to concede two corners just afterwards, and the whistle came for the breather before the second goal had been 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 a big forward rush followed, and the Northampton defence was hard pressed, but kicked and tackled sturdily. Twice Crompton put the ball across, but the goal-mouth was packed, and the ball was scrambled away. The visitors were finding touch persistently, and, even at this early stage of the second half, Bennett had had to be addressed by the referee for wasting time. Bennett again kicked out from off the line when Cave beaten, and the goalkeeper 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 desperately. Cave kept goal well. Thayne was hurt in a tackle, evidently pulling a muscle, and he took a deadleft, Stephenson coming inside, with Roberts falling back to centre-half. Twice the Luton left flank broke by the visitors, and was loudly applauded for skilful tackling, and, in a fierce attack at the other end, Cave had to save from Martin. Eight minutes after the interval, the Luton went ahead, Crompton and Martin made the move, and the latter lifted the ball right across goal for BALL to control 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 played strongly, and thwarted them again and again. Stephenson had a chance when he dribbled inside, but finally lost the ball again through lack of control. Ball, however, dribbled down headed into Cave's hands. A spurt 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 latter was fouled by Dawes, but the referee let the offender off for a penalty kick. Several free kicks were given against the visitors, and from one of these Ball 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 on the goal-line, but once more the penalty claim was negatived.

LUCKY LYMAN

Northampton got away on the left, and from a long pass 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 in the centre, and continuing without success. Crompton was twice given good passes, and on the second, 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 light ball. There was a big 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 Kingham played spiendidly all through, being more Bihan a master for his wing. On the other hand, Reece could not hold Lyman when the latter opened up his movements, and he kicked well, he was uncertain in his tackling. Colquhoun was prominent in attack, and really well in good movements, and he and Kingham had excellent understanding, for the full back was up to the ball, back, and kept the danger from the left wing to a minimum.

KIDD'S FIRST TIME

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 League appearance, and showed skilful ball control. Smith, 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 grandly again, and Martin 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 Town wingers were below their best. Crompton often beat his opposition, but did not round off his work quickly or get the ball across squarely enough, while Stephenson, though he had the pace, was all too often beaten by the inability to control fast-moving ball.

COBBLERS

For the Cobblers, Cave was a good goalkeeper, and Bennett and Dawes played steadily, the latter being 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 well against his old colleagues, while Tolland was crafty, and Lyman showed great pace and no little skill.