

POINT DROPPED AT HOME

Luton Nearly Lose to Lowly Gillingham

LUTON TOWN	2
(Ball, Martin)	
GILLINGHAM	2
(Bethell, Baldwin)	

LUTON. — Coen; Kingham, Smith; Colquhoun, McGinnigle, Taylor; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

GILLINGHAM. — Holland; Marsden, Lester; Randle, Barrie, Hopkins; Syrett, Anstiss, Baldwin, Bethell, Doncaster.

It was a real end-of-the-season game in the first half with LUTON last night, and they came very near being beaten, GILLINGHAM, who required to take a point to make them secure from having to seek re-election, obtained that point, and thoroughly deserved it. Had they taken all their chances in the first half they would have taken both points, and it would have been hard to begrudge them going so. They were the better side up to the interval, and although they were overplayed territorially after the change of ends, they made such a strenuous defence that they managed to keep the town score down.

SLOW MOTION

The town players wanted to be content with a sort of slow motion picture in the first half, but Gillingham dictated the course of the game, giving the ball plenty of hoot, and putting all they knew into the job—and they were the more workmanlike, showing better pace, and keeping the ball on the move. There were big gaps in the town defence and much faulty defensive play, while the forwards were inclined to hang on when a sweeping pass would have been much more serviceable.

THE PLAYERS

For the town, Coen did well, and both Kingham and Smith were fine backs, but there was a sense of insecurity about the defence generally. Colquhoun was clever, but lacking pace, and McGinnigle, playnig as well as ever, was bundled about a lot by Baldwin, sometimes unfairly. Taylor worked hard all the time, and better in the second half than previously, but on this form he is not a half-back. Ball led the forwards well, and the right-wing pair, especially Crompton, fought hard. So did Roberts, but the left wing did not get so many chances as the right.

For the visitors, Holland was a safe goalkeeper, and Marsden was a very sound back. Barrie was a power at centre-half, but all the middle men worked valiantly. The forwards were fast, and, if not clever, took the shortest route to goal. Baldwin was a strong leader, always fighting for the ball, and Doncaster showed much skill.

Attendance 3,996; receipts £199 16s.