

COVENTRY SUCCEED

LUTON IN HALF-HEARTED MOOD

(By "CRUSADER")

COVENTRY CITY	1
(Bourton)	
LUTON TOWN	0
COVENTRY CITY. — Pearson; Brown, Baker, Mason, Frith; Curtis, Lauderdale, Bourton, Jones, Watson.	
LUTON TOWN. — Coen; Kingham, Smith; Colquhoun, McGinnigle, Kidd; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.	
Referee. — G. C. Denton, Northampton.	

LUTON TOWN finished their season in every much the style they had played in recent games, and were defeated by COVENTRY CITY. For an end-of-the-season game, there were periods when play was quite exciting, but there were also phases in which it was quite clear that some of the players were not taking risks. Coventry had a good deal the better of the first half, but the Town were superior in the second, and there were as many thrills at the City goalkeeper's end as there had been at Coen's. In the last 20 minutes, the Town should have won the match. They pressed hard, and, with more keenness in front of goal and a little better shooting, they could have beaten Pearson two or three times.

Play opened at a fair pace, with the City the more aggressive, and evidently keen on taking priority over Luton in the League table. They met with a good defence, however, and the first real chance fell to Stephenson, when Ball slipped the ball through for him to race on; as Pearson ran out, he swerved right away from him, and the goalkeeper took possession.

BOURTON SCORES

The City forwards combined well, and all of them were ready to have a shot. Coen saved several times before he was beaten. A free kick was given against Kingham for a trip when he had no idea that an opponent was being brought down, and had Kingham fallen as well, it is probable the kick would have been against Coventry. A very hard drive by Jones was well on the way for the net when Coen threw himself across and brought off a grand save, but BOURTON was on the spot with none near him, and he easily scored.

Coen had to save again just afterwards when Jones put in another fine effort, and when rushed up and shot hard, the ball striking the upright. It was some time before the Town players got going, and it was mainly through the hard work of Roberts that they made the City defence move sprightly. A pass from Stephenson was accepted by Ball, who shot hard and true, but Pearson judged the flight well, and saved.

Stephenson could not take advantage of several good moves when the ball was sent out to him, and he was limping. However, Pearson had to be alert to save several shots, and, at the other end, Coen was frequently in action, bringing off two particularly good saves from Lauderdale. Just before the whistle, Roberts made a fine effort, and Pearson saved well. Half-time:

COVENTRY CITY	1
LUTON TOWN	0

The City resumed strongly, though they had to deal with a sharp move on the Town left wing from the kick-off. Coen saved splendidly, and had a lot to do in spite of the brave opposition of Kingham and Smith, both of whom played well. A quick dribble by Lauderdale took him right through, and the whistle went for a trip, although he kept his feet and went on to score. The free kick came to nothing.

PENALTY MISS

Soon afterwards a penalty was given when Bourton was brought down by McGinnigle. Jones took the kick, but sent the ball a foot wide.

After this the Town came more into the picture, and for the rest of the game were the better side. Colquhoun and Kidd drove their forwards into the fray, and once Colquhoun sent the ball well into goal, and Pearson was beaten, but Brown kicked clear. Then Brown headed out from Crompton when the goalkeeper was at the other end of the goal and helpless to save.

CLOSE CALLS

Lauderdale was still the live wire of the home attack, and Coen had to punch out two shots, once taking the ball off Bourton's head in clever fashion. Kingham was again conspicuous for fine defence, and thwarted several attacks, and then the Town resumed pressure. Crompton received and raced in to beat Pearson, and the ball ran right along the goal-line before swerving outwards close to the farther upright, and Stephenson should have netted easily.

Closing stages found each side making a few attempts, but the end came without further score.

PLAYERS

Coen and his backs played exceedingly well, Kingham being the best back on the field. Smith got through a lot of work, and Colquhoun also played very well, while Kidd shone at times, but neither recovered very quickly. McGinnigle had hard work to keep Bourton quiet, but persevered to the end. Roberts was the best of the forwards, and Ball and Crompton worked hard.

For the City the defence was stubborn and Mason gave a sound pivotal display while in a clever forward line Lauderdale was easily best.