

LUTON TOWNS COLOURS LOWERED

ORIENT'S SUPERIOR PACE AND TEAM WORK

Lack of Method in Defence

CLAPTON ORIENT 3
(Crawford 3)

LUTON TOWN 6

ORIENT—William: Searle, Herod; Heinemann, Affleck, Ware; Miles, Patman, Crawford, Farrell, Edwards.

TOWN.—Coen: Kingham, Mackey; Colquhoun, Nelson, Kidd; Crompton, Beresford, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee: L. Boulstridge, Tamworth.

IF Nelson had won the toss, IF there had been no wind, IF the ground had been more like a billiard table, IF the referee had not continued for nearly 47 minutes the first half, and quite a lot more "ifs," there might have been a very different result. Football is full of "ifs," however, and professional players are supposed to be wise enough to overcome them. Luton were unable to do so, and in a match in which they were the cleverer footballers, they were well and soundly beaten by a team that was quite as clever as they were, but had the saving quality of earnestness and grit, and above all, team spirit and team work. The large number of Luton followers who saw the game will agree.

THEY HAD NOT TIME

WITH the stiff breeze in their favour, the Orient played with all the dash they could command; they were faster on the ball, and although they could not do all the pretty things that some of the Luton players would have done had they been allowed the time necessary, they knew the shortest route to goal, and took it. They staggered the Luton defenders by pace forward, and nonpossumed the attack by determination in defence; they covered up in a way the Luton defenders never could have done, and they were ready for the ball, and taking the quickest way to get it. So they merited success; it should not only do them a lot of good, but should also be a lesson to the Town to learn that pace, vigour and team work are of more vital import to today than ever.

STRONG PIVOTS

IN the first half the Orient had a fair number of shots, but rarely on the target. The first really good scoring attempt was made by Roberts, and half-an-hour had elapsed before it was made, so most were the defence's fault, and not the effort. Main credit in this respect should go to Nelson, who barred the way again and again to the Orient forwards; at the same time he was equally successful in his strong kicking and sturdy repulse of the Town inside forwards saved William a lot of work. The Town flank halves were bothered by the speedy runners of the Orient forwards, and the two teams were playing so wide apart that a radio was almost necessary for them to communicate with each other. Moreover, Nelson was very steady on the ball, and it was to him that it was he was so good with his head and so strong on his feet.

THE UNEXPECTED HAPPENS

WHEN the Town forwards and halves began to move the ball about and play

the Orient at their own game, the effect was more dire threat to the Orient goal than to Luton's, and William had the more difficult work. As the interval approached there seemed little likelihood of the goal being scored, whereas it should have been prevented. As had happened so frequently, Nelson was the only rascal in front of goal when there was an Orient rush, and his attempt to kick CRAWFORD was unavailing; the centre-forward managed to lob the ball towards goal; Coen, who had advanced a yard or two, seemed to be half-stopped when the ball came up, and had he knocked it upwards the ball would have gone over the bar, but he endeavoured to hit it out, and it spun over his hands and fell behind him into the net.

Half-time:

ORIENT 1, TOWN 0.

THE Town restarted the second half like a team that could not be beat, and for twenty minutes were all over the opposition. The Orient drew their forces back into the penalty area, and kept slugging away for the ball, but when the ball came to be half-stopped when the ball came on to the bar, and thrice it bounced along the woodwork before it fell on the side that was opening, and crashed in a shot that had the goalkeeper beaten all the way, but it struck the farther upright, and when Stephenson caught it and returned it in the same way, Ball's outstretched foot sent it just wide of the post. Crompton put in centres that caused trouble, and William saved singly several times, and at last the attack petered out.

DISILLUSIONED

JUST when we were settling down with the conviction that the Town must pull through, there was disillusionment. Nelson ran out to the left to tackle an opponent, and both went down. Crawford, who had gone over to help his colleague, tripped up the ball and pelted down the left wing with no one attempting to meet him. Nelson was on his feet and after him, hopefully in the same way, and the result was that one of the field players with Crawford, making no attempt to cut him off; CRAWFORD was allowed to cut in towards goal before the opposition was out to him, and then he was too late; he took his shot, and Coen seemed to have the ball, which carried no pace worth mentioning, well covered, but in a most remarkable way it beat him, and dribbled into the net.

STOWN WITHOUT STING

TIME after time the Town forwards, with the help of Kidd in particular, stormed the Orient goal, but they were never to be beaten, and his colleagues supported him manfully. The Town inside forwards were too long making up their minds to shoot, and the Orient half-backs were too quick to mean though they were not. Stephenson and Crompton net the ball across splendidly, and the Town beats and Nelson kept beating the ball towards the goal, but the defence were steady and the ball was inside forwards could not make a telling shot. Once Stephenson lifted the ball across for Crompton, and the winger had a

splendid chance, but shot first into the goal. William watched the ball rise over the bar.

THE NET TRICK

THE Orient gave anxiety every time the forwards made a move, and the goal came as the result of another break away by Crawford. Again Nelson was out to tackle the Orient left half, and Edwards the ball was promptly lifted into the middle. Mackey failed to attempt to kick the ball, and the ball, lying handy, again snapped it up. HAWKES had a few time for goal. From some distance he shot, and though there was nothing to be gained by the direction was good enough to beat the head-on rush of the two or three inches, and the ball trickled inside the upright. The Town continued to struggle on, but were beaten. The forwards were covered utterly by the defence with rugged opposition. The danger coming chiefly from Stephenson and Crompton, with Kidd also doing some work. On the other hand, the Orient were found gaps, and Crawford was added a fourth goal, dribbling past two three opponents before sending in a hat shot which struck the bar.

NO UNDERSTANDING

IT was a heavy fall, and although the ball seemed to go right for the goal, the players, they were never without an understanding of each other's play. Last year's experience seemed to be of no value to them, and the hugging of the ball was continued. The result was that the Orient was fatal. Not one of the forwards played up to anything like expectations, and there was no shooting worth the name. The defence was strong, and who rarely get a pass in the first half, was most best.

Nelson did great work in the first half, but not in the second. The reason for this was because there was no understanding in defence. The adoption of the third-half game failed simply because his colleague did not appreciate the difference between the first and second halves. The result was that the Orient was fatal. Not one of the forwards played up to anything like expectations, and there was no shooting worth the name. The defence was strong, and who rarely get a pass in the first half, was most best.

FRANCE FOR ORIENT

OF the Orient it is true to say that they will find more difficult opposition at the season's end. They will not be allowed to offend a course of the game, and I do not think I should still think the odds were well on Luton if the teams were meeting next Saturday on a neutral ground. Nevertheless, they were quicker on the ball, and although they were not so good, they did not wait for the run of the ball, but went for it and hit it, and they had evidently made up their minds to continue the criticism, most of whom had given their word.

William probably saved the side from defeat by fine goalkeeping after change of goals, but his backs played a most important part in the work. Herod was as good as ever. Affleck put up a strenuous game, never hesitating, and did not leave Ball more than two or three yards from him. Stephenson and Ware were hard all through.

Crawford was a real opportunist and was well supported all along the line, but he was not so good as he was at the top speed, and at top speed, they had lost, but deserved it. 10,000 spectators.