

LUTON FAILURES

ONLY ONE POINT IN FOUR GAMES

Three Points Lost at Home

(By "CRUSADER")

LUTON TOWN'S first home game showed the team still to be unsettled, and SOUTHEND UNITED inflicted defeat after a severe struggle.

The first half was much in favour of the home side, and the pressure on the Southend goal at times, particularly towards the interval, was very severe, but failure to drive home their attacks detracted from the advantage the Town had in general play.

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From the first it was evident that the Luton players were all out to prove that their previous games were all wrong, but while they worked extremely hard, there was lacking the combination necessary to overcome a very steady defence.

The Town left wing was prominent, and Moore had his work cut out now and then, but he was well protected and really good shots were all too few.

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On the other hand, when the United attacked, they shot well, and were not afraid to try from a distance, and it was a fine shot from well over 20 yards' range by STEVENS that opened their account. Fellowes had slipped when about to tackle the opposing centre-forward, who was prompt to seize a chance, and the shot went into the net at a great pace.

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Luton worked hard, and often got close into the Southend goal, but every effort was checked, and Moore was given the opportunity to cover up when opponents came to close quarters.

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The equalising goal came from a penalty, which appeared to be rather too severe a punishment, although there was undoubtedly an offence when Turner pushed BALL. The Town centre-forward took the penalty kick, and easily beat Moore with a fast, low shot.

Moore had a great deal of work before the interval, when the teams crossed over on level terms.

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The Town had all the better of the general play in the second half, and the pressure on the Southend goal was relieved only occasionally, but there was lack of understanding and of penetrative power among the forwards. Roberts once hit the bar with a good effort when Moore was at the other end, and Crompton twice headed over when Moore would probably have been well beaten had the ball been nodded downwards.

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Stephenson put in very strong work, and many centres were put across the visitors' goalmouth, but the shooting was tame, and Moore, although he was hurt twice in saving, kept his charge intact.

A breakaway by the visitors again saw Fellowes at fault, for a poor attempt at clearance sent the ball to Firth, who gave STEVENS another chance, which he promptly seized, and Coen was well beaten.

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For the remainder of the game Southend were battling to keep their goal safe, and they managed it, although there were many lucky escapes. To the end the Town forwards persisted, but they were never well together, and the finishing was extremely poor.

SOUTHEND UNITED 2
(Stevens 2)

LUTON TOWN 1
(Ball, penalty)

LUTON TN.—Coen; Finlayson, Hubbard; Payne, Fellowes, Kidd; Crompton, Andrews, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

SOUTHEND UNITED. — Moore; Nelson, Robinson; Spelman, Turner, Carr; Demell-week, Firth, Stevens, Lane, Oswald.

Referee.—G. Hamilton-Jones, Woolwich.