

LUCKLESS LUTON

READING BENEFIT BY OFFICIAL BLUNDERS

(By Crusader)

SHEER hard luck prevented **LUTON TOWN** from gaining a much-needed and long-deferred victory at **READING**. Deprived of the services of Crook after ten minutes' play, they put up such a strenuous and courageous game that they took the lead after half-an-hour, and held it for forty-five minutes, and then lost it through errors of officials.

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CROOK had begun quite well, and his absence undoubtedly affected the work of the forward line, but the other four worked very hard, and gave a lot of trouble when they swung the ball about. Where they erred was in trying to keep the ball too close with the handicap against them, and in spite of their disadvantage they might well have given a lot more trouble before the change-over had they contrived to keep the game open.

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READING were frustrated only by the steady and gallant work of the Town defenders. Coen saved again and again in great style, while Fellowes mastered Tait time and again, though the old Luton player was putting in all he knew, and was quite the best of the home forwards. Kingham and Smith rarely went wrong, though Kingham had a penalty kick unjustly awarded against him, for the free kick should have been given against Paterson, who handled flagrantly before he got the ball past Coen.

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DONE, Reading's right-back, who was reputed never to have missed from the spot, managed to do so this time, the ball going well wide. There were many hot attacks on the Luton goal, but so splendidly were they met that they were beaten off, and, following a rush by the Town's four forwards, there was a corner kick, and **BALL** headed in for Beresford and Turner to rush the defence, and the first-named got the ball over the line.

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FIERCE work was put in by Reading before the interval, but they could not find a way past Coen, and at the retirement the lead remained with the handicapped side. Interval:

LUTON	1
READING	0

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READING worked might and main in the second half, but still they could not beat down the Town defence, and Coen again gave a grand display. On the other hand, when the Town forwards got going, they were very troublesome, and thrice Ball beat the backs to give Crompton a good chance, but in the first instance he delayed his shot too long, and in the others he sent wide.

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WITH only a quarter of an hour to go, an offside decision against Crompton was so absurd that the crowd yelled against the linesman who made it. Nevertheless, the free kick was the beginning of the



COEN

unc Ang of Luton. Reading got away, and after the right wing's effort had been repulsed, a joint effort by Hayhurst and TAIT ended with a fine drive from the latter crashing into the net.

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THE WINNING GOAL was most unsatisfactory. **LIDDLE** was flagged offside as he took the ball when it was headed forward from the centre, and with the help of Tait he managed to scrape it past Coen. The referee consulted the linesman, and then adhered to his decision of a goal. Luton made great efforts to square the game, and Ball put in a magnificent shot, which Whittaker saved in wonderful fashion, but despite the plucky efforts the equaliser was denied.

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COEN put up a grand game, and backs and halves played splendidly. There was real team work in defence, and might also have been in attack but for the injury to Crook. In any event the team worked with hearty goodwill, and deserved better than they got.

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READING had to thank Tait chiefly for their victory—after official blunders. He played with great spirit, and Fielding also did well. Hayhurst was not so prominent as last season, but did good stopping work, while Robson was the best figure in defence.

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READING	2
LUTON TOWN	1

READING.—Whittaker; Done, Robson; Johnson, Hayhurst, Wright; Liddle, McGough, Tait, Paterson, Fielding.

LUTON.—Coen; Kingham, Smith; Finlayson, Fellowes, McGinnigle; Crook, Beresford, Ball, Turner, Crompton.

Referee.—J. H. Whittle, Worcester.