

LATE GOALS

SAVED LUTON FROM HOME DEFEAT

(By Crusader)

FOR the third time Luton Town failed at home, and once more there was harsh disappointment for a crowd of twelve thousand spectators. Cardiff City threw the home team off their game by their vigorous and whole-hearted tactics, and there was little football of a scientific character during the ninety minutes. While Luton held the ball too close, the visitors, with the exception of the wing forwards, made little attempt to hold it, but kicked hard first time, and endeavoured to rush the Town defence.

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BOTH the Town backs and Fellows sustained hard knocks, and Kingham was an early casualty, and during his retirement the City scored through DIAMOND, who headed past Coen following a big kick by Godfrey into the goal-mouth. The Town did much more pressing than the visitors, but the attacks were ill-balanced, and there was an absence of team work and cohesion. Leckie had the good fortune to see headers by Ball and Beresford go just wide, and Crompton once narrowly missed with a fine shot, but, generally, the persistent close play and the ragged shooting was responsible for the Town crossing over in arrears.

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KINGHAM was able to resume after change of ends, but was far from fit, and the City came near increasing their lead several times because the Town right-back could not find the pace or the strength to kick and tackle so well as he has been doing in recent games. The City's second goal soon after the interval, however, came through a flaw in the left flank of the defence, Pugh beating Smith to give DIAMOND the chance to get the ball past Coen from close range.

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THERE appeared to be little hope for the Town at this stage, but they rallied splendidly, and, cutting out much of the fancy work they gave the City defence a real testing. BALL scored with a great shot after Finlayson and Beresford between them had made the opportunity, and after long and sustained pressure. FINLAYSON netted the second, following a free kick after Stephenson had been fouled by Bassett.

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IN between these goals, however, the Town goal had a very narrow escape, for a splendid effort by Diamond struck the foot of the post, with Coen helpless to save. However, in the last fifteen minutes the Town were well on top, and with better finishing they would have snatched a victory. They hardly deserved that,



J. FINLAYSON

and were perhaps lucky, on the whole, to take a point, though one could not overlook the handicap under which the defence laboured owing to the hard knocks received.

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THE form of the Town team generally was far below the display they gave at Reading. The lack of understanding in every department was deplorable, and the positioning was exceedingly poor. The backs and Fellows could, perhaps, be excused a good deal because of their injuries, but the forwards were right off colour, as a line. Ball and Crompton tried hard all the time and were the most successful, while Finlayson was the best half-back on the field, and probably the best player of the twenty-two.

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THE City backs and pivot put up a very sturdy and resolute resistance, and chief credit for their point should go to them and Diamond, who was always on the alert for a chance, while Pugh and Roberts did very well.

LUTON TOWN 2
Ball, Finlayson

CARDIFF CITY 2
Diamond (2)

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

CARDIFF.—Leckie, Bassett, Everest; Godfrey, Mort, Smith; Pugh, Roper, Diamond, Riley, Roberts.

Referee: G. Dutton, Warwick.