

LUTON AGAIN BETTER THAN MILLWALL

FORWARDS DAZZLE IN APPROACH AND FIZZLE IN FINISHING

MACKEY IN MASTERLY FORM

(By CRUSADER)

MILLWALL 0
LUTON TOWN 0

MILLWALL.—Yuill: Walsh, Turnbull; Forsyth, Wallbanks, Broly; M'Cartney, Forsyth, Palmer, Smith (R.).
LUTON TOWN.—Coen: Mackey, Smith; Nelson, Fellowes; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.
Referee: E. R. Westwood, Walsall.

LUTON TOWN did not maintain their winning sequence; they ought to have done so for they were unquestionably the better side in every way except the matter of goal scoring. There was a very obvious lack of snap and fire in the finishing, or they would have won, in spite of the fact that Yuill is a brilliant goalkeeper, and certainly had much more and very difficult work than that which fell to Coen.

The Town's superiority was most marked after the interval, when they faced the Lions. For long stretches they were pressing hard, but when it came to the vital shot they were unable to beat Yuill. The shooting was often erratic, but equally important was the disinclination to force matters at close quarters, and the slowness in taking a shot, Ball especially being at fault in this respect.

IN TOWN NET

As usual the team played well together; indeed, that they did not look like scoring a goal to the opposition except on rare occasions. Curiously enough the Lions got the ball into the net on one of their determined raids, and if the Town forwards had shown as much earnestness when close in, Yuill would have been beaten.

When Forsyth did get the ball into the net, however, the referee was close up, and was able to see him bring the ball to his net by the use of his hands. Of course, the Millwall crowd, who did not see any more than we could see, made the usual blunder about it, but there was no question about the infringement. Moreover, Coen was fouled at the same time.

REPORTERS LATE

Fog was so thick that it was very doubtful whether the game would be played, and the hundred or so Luton followers were late in arriving owing to trains being delayed. They were disappointed, too, because the Town did not win after having so much of the game, but they recognised the value of a point from such a hard place as the Den.

Millwall won the toss and elected to play against the slope. The Town were at once aggressive, Crompton getting Turnbull bothered by his speed and nippiness, and corner was forced. The burly Millwall back, however, booted the ball out of danger, and when Nelson came well forward and set a fine pass up the middle, Ball looked as if he was getting through, but Yuill came out and managed to kick clear in a hurry.

YUILL SAVES

The Town forwards were playing fast and efficient football, and Roberts drew a bead on the target from thirty yards out, Yuill snatching the ball after letting it spin out of his grasp. The crowd soon became excited, and yelled for the "Lions" to get going, but Mackey and Smith foiled attempts by either wing, the former checking Reg Smith very neatly when the winger tried to dribble through.

Millwall began to fight back, and Reg Smith gained a corner, but Fellowes cleared, and then came a very fine movement in which Ball and his right wing took part, Finlayson following up, and Crompton rushed in to take possession after Ball had beaten the defence, but the whistle sounded offside against the winger, who had only just begun to beat from three yards range.

STEPHENSON UNLUCKY

Millwall's right wing came into prominence, Alexander showing splendid control, and M'Cartney had a tussle with Nelson which brought a flag-kick, but Coen came and punched clear. Martin was prominent with bright footwork, and Crompton got the better of Turnbull, and rushed right across the ground for Stephenson to rush in and dribble past Walsh, but he lost possession and the ball went behind. Tom Smith had a grim bout to get the better of the home right wing, and a moment later held up Forsyth when the centre-forward was framing for a shot at goal blank range. Nelson did sterling work, and Mackey kicked strongly, and the Town attacked hotly, but they could not see the issue when they got to close quarters, Ball being rushed off the ball by Wallbanks twice in quick succession, after which he was put through by Roberts and Stephenson respectively.

Millwall tried speculative shots, but were really well wide of the mark, whereas the Town forwards did find Yuill on the spot. When they got in shots, and certainly had more attempts than the home side. Roberts hit an ankle when he stepped into a ditch as he was going to take a throw-in by Finlayson, and the result was a sharp attack on the Town goal, but Nelson and Mackey prevented Forsyth getting close in for a shot.

MARTIN'S TRICKINESS

Martin's trickiness had Broly beaten, and Crompton again dashed through, but as centre was headed out, and then there was a brisk fusillade in which Yuill saved twice, and Martin had a great drive rebound from Wallbanks, after which Crompton booted the ball over.

Immediately afterwards the Town forwards came through with dazzling combination, and Ball veered out to the right to put in a grand shot, which Yuill turned round the post in brilliant fashion. Stephenson came into the middle once and tried to dribble through, but met a packed goal at the last moment, and just afterwards, in a further effort, he banged the ball wide.

A GREAT SAVE

Crompton again slipped past Turnbull easily, and from his centre Ball headed well, but Yuill again brought off a great save in the far corner, and just afterwards Roberts dribbled into the middle and shot hard, but the ball struck Walsh, who hit the post and went behind. The Town forced two or three corners, but they were beaten back, and when Nelson rushed down as he was checking Forsyth, the home team appeared likely to score, but when he had dropped back, and very skilfully he-heeled the ball from the centre-forward's possession. The Town were on the attack again when the whistle sounded the interval.

MILLWALL 0
LUTON 0

It had been very difficult to follow play in the first half, but the fog had lifted

now and then, and one could see right across the ground at the resumption. The blanket came down again, however, as the players turned out.

Straightway the Town attacked, and Yuill saved from Martin, and the ball came quickly to the other end, M'Cartney leading the foray but Mackey barred the way. Martin and Crompton, backed by Finlayson, went through in great style, and the winger closed in and shot hard for Yuill to save.

OFF THE MARK

A splendid run by M'Cartney and Alexander looked dangerous, and the former dropped the ball right across goal, but Finlayson was in wait, and cleared comfortably before any opponent could get up. Roberts and Stephenson again came into action, with Fellowes doing good work in their rear, and Ball accepted a centre, but his shot was off the mark.

The fog came down again, and one could only judge that there were lively tussles on the Luton right wing because of the shouts of the crowd. Once Yuill made a grand save when Crompton emerged from the fog and drove in hard, and then a hard shot by Roberts nearly twisted from the goalkeeper's hands.

The Town were having the better of the exchanges, and, when Millwall got away, they found Nelson and his backs hard to pass, and Coen was rarely troubled. Again Yuill saved from Crompton, and Walsh and Wallbanks did fine work in defence.

REFEREE SAW IT

Tom Smith came to the rescue when Nelson let Alexander beat him, and a corner followed. This was well placed, but Tom Smith ducked his head and allowed the ball to pass, thinking it was going behind, but it struck the face of the post and went to Forsyth, who beat it down with his hands before getting it past Coen. The referee was on the spot, and penalised the centre-forward, the crowd howling against him, though they could not see exactly what had happened.

The Town forwards were soon attacking again, but could not get in a scoring shot, and, as the time went on, there was the utmost difficulty in following the play. Even the players nearest to the touch-line on the stand side could hardly be recognised in the closing stages, and it was quite impossible to see what was happening on the other wing. Flares were lit by the crowd at the top end, and on the popular side, and the game came to an end with the players all but eclipsed from view.

A GOOD POINT

It was a very good point, but the Town should have won. They were the better side, the defence playing with great confidence, and the forwards were equally good, but the shooting was very poor. Crompton and Stephenson were again splendid wingers, and received great assistance from Martin and Roberts, while Ball was always trying hard against defenders who gave him no peace.

The centre-forward, however, still lacks that promititude which was such a big factor of his play last season, and he is not nearly the opportunist he was then, or there would have been goals. Little fault could be found with the play in approach, but it was not rounded off at all well.

GRAND HALF-BACKS

The halves were in grand form again, rarely making a mistake, though once Nelson, after cleverly holding up the home right, was deprived of the ball as he started to make ground, and trouble followed. He was always master of Forsyth, whose few shots generally came from a distance. Finlayson and Fellowes were as good as ever, and both played soundly.

Mackey again put up a masterly display, and he and Walsh vied for notice as the best backs on the field. There can be no doubt that Mackey is now at his best, and his weight and judgment seem to improve with every match, while his kicking was of perfect length.

Tom Smith had a very difficult task to hold M'Cartney and Alexander, but he is playing nearly as well as he did last season, and has regained most of his dash and confidence. Coen kept goal without a mistake, and the whole team once more showed fine comradeship and understanding.

MILLWALL'S BEST

Yuill had three or four shots to save for every one that went to Coen. He is a grand custodian, and saved the "Lions" from defeat. Walsh was by far the more reliable back playing with great dash and clever judgment, while Wallbanks seems certain to keep his position at centre-half. He is a great worker and has immense courage.

Newcomb and Broly were not far behind the Luton wing halves, especially in their supporting work.

Alexander was the cleverest of the inside forwards, and M'Cartney a dangerous winger. Reg Smith, the former Hitchin player, sparkled now and then, but had the life taken out of him in a collision with Mackey.

LEAGUE TABLE

LONDON COMBINATION

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Brentford	20	15	4	1	45	22	31
Swansea	21	14	5	2	37	28	30
Porstmouth	18	12	1	5	56	20	29
Arsenal	19	14	4	1	55	20	29
Palace	22	12	6	4	47	43	28
LUTON TOWN	21	12	7	2	69	44	26
West Ham	21	10	7	4	51	31	24
Chelsea	20	10	6	4	46	40	24
Q.P. Rangers	21	10	8	3	36	34	23
Charlton	20	9	9	2	37	24	20
Reading	18	9	8	1	39	43	19
Coventry	19	9	10	0	39	29	18
Millwall	18	8	8	2	25	30	18
Watford	19	7	9	3	42	49	17
Spurs	18	6	8	4	49	44	16
Southend	19	6	9	3	41	40	15
Northampton	20	5	10	5	30	36	15
Southampton	19	4	9	6	18	43	14
Orient	19	5	11	3	30	52	13
Bournemouth	19	5	12	2	35	42	12
Fulham	22	5	16	1	29	74	11
Bristol C.	18	5	13	0	31	48	10
Leicester	18	3	11	4	24	55	10
Brighton							