

FORWARDS FAIL IN FINISHING

OTHERWISE LUTON WOULD HAVE WON AT MILLWALL

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN were full value for the point they won at Millwall, and had they been equal to getting the full fruits of their skill they would have scored their eighth consecutive victory.

It was only their innocuous finishing, coupled with the security of Yuill, the Millwall custodian, that restricted the reward to a single point.

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MIDDLE LINE and attack on the Luton side were superior to the corresponding lines of the opposition, but, as usual, the Millwall rearguard was difficult to overcome, especially with Walsh showing the form that brought him into prominence five or six years ago.

It was disappointing to the band of followers from Luton, who made the journey in spite of the heavy fog that threatened to prevent the match, that the marksmanship was not good enough to win after the approach work had been all too good for the opposition.

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FOG was so heavy as to make a start doubtful, but shortly before the kick-off there was a rather better light, and this continued generally until ten minutes or so from the end, when it was quite impossible to follow closely the run of the game.

Had a goal been scored, it would have been quite impossible from the stand to have identified the scorer.

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LUTON had the better of the game, though there was not a great deal in it before the interval. Yuill made three or four very fine saves, notably from Roberts, Crompton and Ball twice, the last-named having very hard luck with a splendid header, and the best shot of the match, Yuill managing to get to both just in time.

On the other hand good chances were missed because the Town centre-forward was not sharp enough to get in his shot before he was hustled by the robust defence—robust as ever at Millwall.

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COEN did not have nearly the amount of work of his opposite, though once in the first half and twice in the second, he made good saves. It was in the second period that Luton were very much superior, and had they only shot really well, Yuill, in spite of his fine judgment and agility, must have been beaten two or three times.

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MILLWALL danger moves generally came from the right wing, where Alexander and M'Cartney were very clever, and required a lot of holding, but the "Lions" were just as bad as the Town in their finishing, and they had not half the chances.

A good opportunist on either side could have won the match.

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MILLWALL managed to get the ball into the net on one occasion, about ten minutes from the end, but Forsyth used his hands, and was right under the nose of the referee, who did not hesitate to penalise the offender.

So bad was the light that it was impossible to see exactly what happened, and as the referee walked from the spot the crowd thought he had given a goal, and they cheered like mad until the ball was kicked off from goal again. Then they let the referee have it to some ugly tune.

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ACTUALLY, what happened was that Millwall was taken a corner. M'Cartney took the kick and Tom Smith, standing close to the upright, thought the ball was going out of



FRED ROBERTS

play, or he could have headed it away easily. He let it go; it struck the face of the upright and glanced to Forsyth, who knocked it to his feet, and after a struggle with Coen, got it through. The referee saw it all.

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CLOSING PLAY was a farce, for players could not be recognised. The ball was more in the Millwall area than in Luton's, and the crowd lit newspapers and made bonfires, amid much laughter. The referee kept play going for nearly four minutes over time, apparently having added a little for delay through injuries.

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COEN kept goal well, though he did not have much trouble; Mackey was in great form again, and Tom Smith was again a bit nearer his best. Nelson mastered the Millwall inside forwards, and Finlayson and Fellowes were splendid at flank half.

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BALL was slow in action at close quarters, though he was well covered by Wallbanks and the home backs, and was always a willing worker. If he could only find that alacrity and opportunism that characterised his game last season, there would be little doubt as to Luton's ultimate position, but goals are wanted.

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MARTIN was very clever again, some of his tricky footwork completely puzzling the opposition, while Roberts was also very good, and both gave their wing men plenty of opportunity, the response of Crompton and Stephenson being as good as ever.

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MILLWALL owed a great deal to the skill of Yuill and Walsh, both of whom played grandly all through the piece. So did Wallbanks, while the flank halves showed much cleverness.

The right-wing pair were very neat and always dangerous on the move, and Smith, the former Hitchin player, was bright now and then, though he found his master in Mackey.

MILLWALL	0
LUTON TOWN	0

MILLWALL.—Yuill; Walsh, Turnbull; Newcomb, Wallbanks, Broily; M'Cartney, Alexander, Forsyth, Palmer, Smith (R.).

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Crompton, Martin, Ball, Roberts Stephenson.

Referee: E. R. Westwood, Walsall.