

Brilliant Boyd : Luton's New Leader

Chalks Up Five Goals

ORIENT'S GRIM STRUGGLE

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN..... 5
 (Boyd 5)
 CLAPTON ORIENT..... 3
 (Crawford 2, Smith 1)
 LUTON TOWN—Coen, Finlayson, Smith, Colquhoun, Nelson, Fellowes, Crompton, Martin, Boyd, Roberts, Stephenson.
 ORIENT—Hillam, Searle, Taylor, J.J. Fogg, Affleck, Heinemann, Miles, Taylor (H.), Crawford, Smith, Mayson.
 Referee.—L. Boulstridge, Tamworth.
 LUTON TOWN contrived to pass the ugly number of thirteen in the sequence of games without defeat. CLAPTON ORIENT were not defeated without a fierce and relentless struggle in which they were many free kicks for infringements, and even then a considerable number of offences were overlooked, perhaps because of the conditions. On several occasions there were incidents very much like wrestling matches as the ball was stuck in the thick mud, and one or two of each side endeavoured to secure possession. Each side was blameworthy in this respect, but the frequency with which the Town players tried to drive the ball through the mud instead of lifting it out to the spaces where the green turf showed was puzzling. Had the halves and inside forwards made more effort to avoid the centre of the field I think the victory would have been much more decisive.

EXTRAORDINARY ESCAPE

Gallantly though the Orient played, they were inferior in most departments. Team work they had in equal measure, but they were not so skilful individually, and their defence was not strong enough to check the Town attack sufficiently to serve their forwards consistently. For long stints there were incessant attacks on the Orient goal, which had extraordinary escapes, and again and again was saved by the very fine goalkeeper of Hillam. What would have happened at the Town end had the pressure been as severe I hesitate to think, for when the Orient forwards got moving in something like scientific style they were

exceedingly dangerous, or would have been had they finished as well as they approached.

HILLAM IN ACTION

The ground was in terrible state; much worse than the visit of Stoke County. Early play was even, each goal being visited, and there were three or four free kicks very soon after the start. Gradually the Town settled down, and Boyd soon won applause by his delightful feinting; had the Town left wingers been on the spot on one occasion there would have been trouble for Hillam, but the centre-forward's dainty pass to the left was unaccepted. Hillam, however, was soon showing his ability, and made good saves from right and left. Stephenson was not so good as Searle while Affleck was puzzled by the prancing of Boyd, and did not know quite what to make of him.

The Orient goal had many escapes, shots being driven in from either wing, and, with Boyd pestering all the time, business occupied the City rearward and middle men.

SHOCK FOR THE TOWN

To or three times Stephenson seemed certain to score, but he could not get the right direction on the ball, though once he damaged the side net so that there was a hold-up while the referee, held up by two Orient players and supplied with string by some of the spectators, repaired the broken meshes. The Town were having much the better of the game when the first shock came. Hillam was beaten by the mud as he went for the ball, which came straight up the middle; CRAWFORD was there, too, and before the centre-half could recover, the Orient leader shot through the wide gap between the backs, and, as Coen ran out, deftly tapped the ball to the right of the goalkeeper, and it landed safely in the net. An opportunist's goal.

BOYD BEGINS

Almost immediately Boyd made a fine chance for Roberts, but the inside-left, at full stretch, could not get the necessary punch behind the ball, and Hillam picked it up easily. However, the Town persevered, and after Stephenson had been stopped twice when close in, Roberts drove in a shot which spanked the bar hard, struck the goalkeeper as it fell, and was bootied out by a defender, but BOYD was right in the path of the ball, and without hesitation returned it hard and low into the net.

A minute later Finlayson raced right up the field, and Crompton and Martin carried on; the latter cleverly passed out to the left, where Boyd had taken position, and the centre-forward shot brilliantly again, a low, sizzling shot, for Hillam to be hopelessly beaten. The ball was travelling so fast that, heavy as it was, it was out of the net and came almost to the edge of the penalty area.

THE "HAT-TRICK"

The Town pressed again, and Finlayson, who would insist on having a turn in the half-back position, came in swinging forwards, and put in a shot which was just too high. Then came a threat at the other end, and the Town goal had a very lucky escape. Miles should have been tagged offside, for it was plain that he was well the other side of the Luton defenders when he received from his partner. He dribbled in and then centred. Coen, who had come out, and Crawford and Smith had the ball on the goal-line right under the bar when Tom Smith turned up, and, by resolute tackling, prevented the ball being forced through. Then Coen flung himself atop of the ball, and held on, and relied that he kept goal made for him. An infringement against the Orient. A blue rally by the Town, and BOYD received from the right, and, before Hillam could size up the situation the ball was sent to the goalkeeper touching but being unable to arrest it.

So a gruelling first half ended with the Town leading.

LUTON TOWN..... 3
 CLAPTON ORIENT..... 1
 Hillam was seen in evidence when the game was resumed, and, within three or four minutes he had made as many splendid saves, the Town forwards and

halves launching attack after attack, and getting close in despite vigorous resistance. Boyd was always prominent when the ball came to goal, and on a few tumbles, but came up for more, and his quick brain often led the Orient defenders into false positions. Hillam however was magnificently brave, and nearly scored with a header, and then, during a fierce and prolonged assault the Orient goal had half a dozen close shaves, Boyd once beating the goalkeeper and striking the upright at the farther end.

ORIENT'S GAME BID

It was nearly all Luton, but the Orient fought hard and gamely, every man pulling out a bit extra to keep the Town out. Then came a similar incident to that of the first half. After all the escapes of the Orient rushed away on the left wing, the Town defenders being caught out of position, Crawford, Searle, and Martin were all together and forced their way through. Nelson made a valiant bid to hold them up, but was outnumbered and pinned. MARTIN scored.

The Orient came again, and the Town defenders were uneasy against the strong raids. Eventually, they were beaten out, and the Town scored. Searle and Roberts just failing to kick the ball out of the mud when only a yard out.

A BRILLIANT GOAL

Roberts was playing finely along with Stephenson, and Fellowes backed up well. The Town were not so good as they were in the Orient goal, although Martin and Crompton were also doing well. Once one of the Orient players deliberately handed the ball to stop the rush, but the referee paid no heed to the appeal for a penalty. BOYD made the crowd forget all about this just afterwards, for he took a pass from the wing, and, after a series of beautiful feints, shot a glorious goal.

Luton came near adding to their half a dozen times in the many minutes, but Hillam was grandly again in action, before his charge fell for the fifth time. Martin and Crompton took on from Colquhoun, but the kick was not in the best right down. Crompton, after centring squarely into goal, and BOYD met it on the run and turned it past Hillam. Stephenson was not so sure, but the referee was already pointing to the centre.

The Orient were by no means done, and Hillam had too much rope all the while the game, had three centres diverted by him, he got over a fourth from which CRAWFORD headed a splendid goal. This was a goal from the end, and the war was further incident worthy of record.

WIN DESERVED

Luton deserved their success, they had to fight from beginning to end, but they were the better side. Coen had not much to do, but had no chance with the side that beat him. The trouble was that the absence of Mackey rather upset the balance of the defence. Finlayson and Smith in both plays were well, and the latter a confident and reliable as he was last season. I prefer Finlayson at half, well though he played at back. Nelson again was a player of strength and of course had all the worst of the conditions, for he was always ankle-deep in the mire. Fellowes played as steadily as usual, and Colquhoun did most bright things, though this was not his ground. He likes a fast-moving ball.

OTHERS (GOOD TOO)

Boyd, of course, took the eye most because of his scoring feat. He sent the crowd wild with enthusiasm, and he can keep up this form the Town will have no regret whatever they paid for him. Smith would not call him the best player in the attack, even for all worked very hard. Stephenson was frequently doing fine things, and Roberts was a splendid partner. On the other wing, Crompton and Martin were both good, but both did skilful work, and their passing often had the worrying opposition confounded.

HILLAM'S GREAT DISPLAY

Hillam saved the Orient from a terrible defeat. He kept goal magnificently, and again and again stood in the breach. All the defenders played resolutely, with Mackey very conspicuous in spite of the success of the Town leader. The forwards were a fast and well-balanced line, with Crawford a dashing leader, and Miles a tricky wing.

The weather was so bad for an hour before the kick-off that it probably kept at least a thousand away, but the figures were second hand. Saturday's receipts for this season, being 13,289 and the receipts £795 13s. 6d.