

NELSON A COLUMN OF STRENGTH

Luton Stepped In Where West Ham Feared to Tread

By L. V. Manning

Luton 4, West Ham 0

MANCHESTER CITY can make up their mind they are meeting a first not a third class team in Luton Town in the next round of the Cup.

The team which has made the steep climb from bottom to the top of their division since they were last beaten on September 28 play football of the best brand—cool, clever and intelligent.

That they also have the essential quality of courage they showed in putting West Ham out of the Cup on a frost-bound ground with that slithery top surface which footballers dread.

NOT A SHOCK TEAM

Luton men stepped in where West Ham feared to tread, but it would be unjust to the winners to dismiss them as a shock team. It took them until the sixth minute of the second half to score the first of their four goals, but they were the better team all through by reason of their superior ball control and the accuracy of their passing.

West Ham went to defeat practically without a forward. Marshall beaten by the ground, Simpson shirking his tackles, Mangnall as helplessly in the grip of Nelson as the Frenchmen at Trafalgar, Goulden too involved in defence to be constructive, and Jimmy Ruffell busy catching cold in shivering isolation on the touch line.

OFFSIDE ?

I would argue Luton's goal (Ball from Martin) was offside if it mattered, but the others came with such convincing regularity—all the result of pure football—that we can pass on.

Crompton, a header from that lively winger Stephenson, Roberts, again from a grand dribble by Stephenson, and a neat, short inside pass, and Stephenson, from a pass Ball probably meant to be a shot, was the way of the other three goals.

It wasn't a good West Ham team Fred Dell was taken to watch—too many slips in defence and far too many passing inaccuracies.

NELSON A BARGAIN

Luton made a good bargain when they bought Nelson for £1,500, and are lucky indeed to have a centre so good as Ball to take the Cup-tied Boyd's place. As he played in this match Ball is a better centre than he was in the uniform of Sheffield Wednesday, and I believe he only cost the club £800.

A rock-like defence has been built round the long-limbed Nelson, and Roberts and Stephenson form a left wing of First Division standard.

Also I liked the way the wing-halves came up in attack, the cleverness of Roberts, and the pace and resource of Crompton.

Attendance 17,527; receipts £2,099.