

LUTON'S HONOURABLE EXIT

GALLANT CUP-TIE FIGHT AT MANCHESTER

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN'S exit from the F.A. Cup Competition was made with honour, and on every hand it was agreed that MANCHESTER CITY were fortunate to win, or at least to escape a re-play which, all other things being equal, they could not have hoped to survive. The match was not quite so sportsmanlike as the games with West Ham, but the pace was a cracker from start to finish, with the Town the better side in the first half, and the City perhaps a trifle, but very small trifle, better in the second.

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ON A GROUND that had been water-logged in the morning, play was very fast and exciting. The Town team, playing well together, did much the more attacking, and only the great play of Swift in the City goal prevented a lead at half-time. In either uncanny accuracy or by good fortune he managed to divert three or four scoring shots, while once when he was beaten by Stephenson Dale managed to turn the ball round the post.

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SCORE SHEET was blank at the interval, and the Town nearly took the lead in hot attacks soon after the restart. They had the better of the game again, and Swift made more fine saves before a raid by the City brought the first goal, HERD scoring from McLeod's pass. It was then that Coen's quality was seen, for he frustrated further fine efforts by the City forwards.

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MORE ATTEMPTS by the Town followed, and many times they came within an ace of equalising, but they went further behind nine minutes from the end, when McLEOD scored a capital goal after good play by his right wing. Then came a spirited rally by the Town, and MARTIN cleverly reduced the deficit to the barest margin again, and the closing stages were fought hotly, but without another goal, and so the City entered the next round.

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EVERY MAN on the field put forth his best. Coen kept goal splendidly again, and had no chance with the shots that beat him. He did not have anything like the amount of work that fell to Swift. Mackey and Smith also played grandly at back, especially the latter, who was the finest defender on view. The kicking and tackling were clean and strong, and with Nelson also holding the City's inside forwards on a very tight rein, no fault could be found with the defence.

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FINLAYSON played his customary bright game, assisting his forwards with great skill, and Fellowes touched his very best; the captain has not played better in any game, and towards the close he made valiant attempts to win the match off his own bat. Both wing halves played to their

forwards with great skill, and joined them in many an onslaught, and also had shots themselves.

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FORWARD PLAY was as good as ever. Ball led the line with tremendous zeal and dash, and is playing better even than he played last season. Time and again he led Marshall and the backs a merry dance, and frequently lost them, while he distributed the ball well. Martin was the schemer, and often initiated many attacks, and Roberts was just as good. Stephenson played one of his brightest games, and had the hardest luck in not scoring two or three goals, while



G. STEPHENSON

Crompton, especially in the first half, was a severe menace, and once struck the upright with a great shot.

The team work was good as ever, and there was splendid positioning and combination both in attack and defence.

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SWIFT was the saviour of the City. He was in great form, and although at least twice very lucky to see his goal escape, he made wonderful saves. His backs were strong kickers and tackled hard, while the middle men hardly compared well with Luton's trio. Percival put up a fine attacking game, however, and was as good as a sixth forward.

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McLEOD, the leader of the attack, I liked very much. He was strong and clever, and had a good shot in his boot. Herd and Tilson both showed splendid footwork, and Toseland was very speedy and centred well, but Brook, who had probably been the most feared member of the attack, while getting balls across with cunning accuracy was not particularly successful.