

LUTON TAKE REVENGE OF READING

BOYD RETURNS, BUT HAS NO LUCK

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN took revenge of READING for the defeat sustained so unluckily at Elm Park in September, and the sixteen thousand spectators at Luton enjoyed a hard-fought game, in which the visitors were plucky and determined and gave a rather tired Town team a severe test. However, the Town players showed the more accomplished football, and were very unlucky that they were not holding a winning lead at half-time.

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PERHAPS the most unfortunate player on the field was Boyd, who came back to lead the forwards, Ball being rested. He played a grand game, and frequently evoked outbursts of applause by his wonderful control and skill, but his shooting met with no success, added to which was a fine display by Whittaker, the Reading goalkeeper.

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READING'S defence was assailed for long periods in the first half, but Whittaker brought off amazing saves, and, with Hayhurst and Gregory putting up a powerful defensive game, the Town's efforts were thwarted again and again. Reading made raids that were dangerous, and Tait's roaming provided chances that were missed by his colleagues, Owen twice being badly at fault.

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AFTER a relentless hammering at the Reading goal, ROBERTS scored with a fine shot following a corner, the ball being headed out, and he met it first time, and



CROMPTON

Whittaker had no chance to save. After this, the closest shave of the afternoon for the visitors was when Boyd beat three opponents within a yard or two, and then went almost up to the goalkeeper before firing, but the ball struck the upright, and rebounded across goal.

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READING started the second half vigorously, and for some time Coen was given anxious moments, although he had not a lot of work. When the Town found their feet again, the visitors' goal had more escapes, and once Whittaker saved in miraculous fashion from Boyd. Play continued to be a hard slog, with Reading the more often on defence, but the players



BOYD

lost a lot of their fire owing to the heavy going.

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EVENTUALLY, the second goal came after more brilliant work by Whittaker; there was a dash on the left wing, and Boyd took a pass, and, in wonderful style, beat Whittaker with a hook shot, but the ball struck the bar, and fell straight down; CROMPTON was on the spot and netted easily.

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THOUGH COEN had enough opportunities to show his skill, the more strenuous work fell upon Whittaker, his back, and Hayhurst, and the goalkeeper brought off several magnificent saves. Near the end, Reading made desultory efforts, but were given little chance, and their goal, scored two minutes from the end by FIELDING, was a chance shot which was quite unexpected.

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LUTON'S defence was sound, and the Reading inside forwards were not given much rope, though they were triers all. The chief danger came from the wingers, though Tait made chances for them. Hayhurst put up a strong game as pivot, and Gregory was a powerful back, but the man of the side was Whittaker, who gave a great display of goalkeeping.

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ATTRACTIVE football was played by the Town forwards, the line showing good control, if hardly so fast as usual. The middle men were safe, though tired, and Nelson smothered Tait effectively in front of goal. Smith put up another grand game at back and Mackey also was good in spite of injury, while Coen did all that was asked of him except in regard to the last goal, and that shot would have beaten any custodian.

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LUTON TOWN 2
(Roberts, Crompton)

READING 1
(Fielding)

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

READING.—Whittaker; Gregory, Robson; Johnson, Hayhurst, Wright, Liddle, Fielding, Tait, Barley, Owen.

Referee.—J. H. Whittle, Worcester.