

GILLINGHAM'S GAME

TOO STRONG AND TOO FAST FOR LUTON

LUTON TOWN fell at home to Gillingham, who were worthy winners of a hard and vigorously-contested game on a ground that was very difficult. The visitors had the better of the exchanges in the first hour, and it was not until the last few minutes that Luton were the better side, and they made their effort too late to recover.

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OPENING PLAY favoured the visitors, and, although the Town had equally good chances, they were unable to take advantage of them because of the poor finishing. Gillingham's forwards shot better and more often than the Town forwards, and kept the play open by using their wingers, who were fast and tricky, and both Doncaster and Tadman came near scoring.

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FISHER eventually opened the score for the visitors, following clever combination by the inside forwards, the centre-forward running clean through the defence to give Coen not a shadow of a chance. After the Town had missed opportunities of drawing level, Watson struck the upright when Coen was beaten and Mackey cleared from the goal-line. Mackey saved his side two or three times by his cool defensive play.

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MARTIN equalised with a brilliant goal following bright work in conjunction with Boyd and Roberts, the inside-right slipping into position to receive from Boyd, and beating Holland with a magnificent shot which the goalkeeper hardly saw. On level terms again, both teams strove hard to get the lead before the interval, but the defences held out, and, at the cross-over, there was nothing to choose between the teams.

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GILLINGHAM had the better of the game again after the change, but they could not get in shots at close-quarters, and, when the Town had their turn, the finishing was again sadly lacking in promptitude and shooting power. Play ran from end to end, but, with the Town keeping the ball too close, the visitors were always the more dangerous, and Coen made the better saves.

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HOWEVER, Boyd had very hard luck when a shot knocked out the goalkeeper, and another laid out a defender, but the ball was got away. Gillingham, after their goalkeeper had resumed, put in strong work, and several times went close before they took the lead through DONCASTER, who took full toll of an easy opening.

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LUTON, who had to rearrange their side owing to Mackey being hurt, made strenuous efforts to draw level, and again and again attacked, but Gillingham defended gamely, and defied all efforts. In the last few minutes, the Town frequently

had the ball almost under the bar, but they could not get it through, and the game ended with a stirring struggle in which the Gillingham goal was packed successfully.

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LUTON failed because they could not get accustomed to the condition, and they

never moved together in the manner that has taken them to the head of affairs. There was a complete lack of confidence and co-operation, and, in the second half, players were all out of place. Coen, Nelson, and Smith were the only players to live up to their best form.

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GILLINGHAM'S defence was strong and unyielding, kicking hard and tackling vigorously, while the forwards were very speedy and centred and shot well.

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GILLINGHAM 2

(Fisher, Doncaster)

LUTON TOWN 1

(Martin)

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

GILLINGHAM.—Holland; Turton, Lester; Randle, Barrie, Hopkins; Tadman, Watson, Fisher, Duncan, Doncaster.

Referee.—A. A. Horwood, Walton-on-Thames.



NELSON