

LUTON MAINTAIN LEAD

EXETER CITY FIGHT TO THE END

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN had no easy task to overcome EXETER CITY, for the visitors put up a plucky show in a game that was clean, if dull and uninteresting. There was no question that the winners were the superior side, but they did not show such pronounced superiority as was expected from them, and, in the period following the interval, they all but allowed the visitors to draw level.

EXETER were not so consistently dangerous as Luton, but their raids provided a few chances, and it was well for the Town defence, even in the early stages, that the marksmanship of the visitors was not of the best. Still, the Town forwards had even more opportunities, and once Stephenson trod on the ball when he had a fine chance. The lusty kicking and resolute tackling of the City backs and halves kept the Town out for twenty minutes.

RICH was the scorer, and the goal was indirectly the result of one of the few infringements during the game. A free kick was given against Robinson for a charge or a push against Ball; Fellowes placed the kick, and Ball headed the ball forward for the right-winger to slip in and, from a sharp angle, head the ball past Beby. It was an opportunist's goal.

HURST and J. Scott missed chances after this, and Coen had to make two or three good saves, but the Town did the more pressing, and Beby did very well to keep his charge clear for some time. Stephenson paved the way for the second goal. He dribbled past three opponents, and, although forced off the ball for a moment,

it went to Ball, who nodded it forward, and STEPHENSON recovered to race in and score neatly.

SECOND HALF play opened in favour of the City, who worked desperately hard, and after they had been foiled on several occasions, they had the Town defence all drawn to the right; Dunn swept the ball across to the left where SCOTT (J.) was unattended, and he met it, and headed into the net, the ball just eluding the plunge of Coen.

STRONG PRESSURE by the Town was of no avail, because usually it broke against the hard tackling of the visitors, who never lost much time in getting the ball away. It required all the alertness of Nelson and his backs to ward off several raids, and Coen saw his goal have a very lucky escape during one hot assault when, time after time, the ball was driven at goal, only to hit a defender.

WHEN THE CLEARANCE was made, a goal was again the indirect result of a foul. Fellowes was brought down badly, and had to receive attention. Stephenson got the ball from the free kick, made a storming run right through the City right flank or defence, and then drove the ball across the front of goal: it was missed by Ball and the defenders, but RICH took an easy chance.

BEBY made two or three fine saves after this, for the Town did the more pressing, but at no time could it be said that the City were wholly mastered. There was a certain amount of indecision in the Town team, and, with the City always eager for a tilt at goal, Coen had to be very watchful, and made one or two good saves. However, the Town left the field deserving winners.

COEN did his part well as usual. Up to a point the backs were safe, but there was not a lot of understanding between backs and halves, and, as a result, the flank halves did not have a really good match. Nelson was again splendid, and broke up many stout attempts by the City forwards. The Town forwards, with the exception of Rich and Stephenson did not have a good match. All three were much below their best, but the two wingers played finely throughout. Probably, the changed conditions had much to do with the inaccurate passing and poor shooting.

ROBINSON, the pivot, was the outstanding man of the City defence, but Beby did very well in goal. The centre-half put



NELSON

up a great game, and saved his backs a lot of work. Both Gray and Miller kicked well. The halves were hard workers, and of the forwards, Dunn was easily the best, though Tom Scott worked very hard, and did some clever things.

LUTON TOWN	3
Rich (2), Stephenson	
EXETER CITY	1
Scott (J.)	

LUTON.—Coen; Booton, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Rich, Martin, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

EXETER.—Beby; Gray, Miller; Clarke, Robinson, Angus; Hurst, Scott (T.).

McCambridge, Dunn, Scott (J.).

Referee.—L. Boulstridge, Tamworth.