

SUCCESS AT NEWPORT

LUTON TOWN MAINTAIN PROMOTION CHANCE

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN maintained line with Coventry for the promotion fight when they visited Newport and triumphed by two goals to nil. They were always the better side, but they had not such a lot to spare at the finish, and the lowly County team offered strenuous opposition from start to finish.

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CONDITIONS were all against the Town's style of play. Except for a little in the vicinity of the touch-lines and goal-lines, the ground was turfless, hard, and there were many bumps, and in addition there was a fairly strong breeze that came right across the ground. As the County began and continued to boot the ball very hard, control was exceedingly difficult.

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DERRICK and Thomas were the only forwards to give the Town defence much anxiety, but the protection for Dolman was good, and he had to make only one difficult save, that from a shot by Thomas, in the first half. Briggs was lucky to get in the way of a shot at close quarters by Payne just after the start, and there were occasions when all the Town forwards were shooting hard, but generally play went from end to end with neither goalkeeper called into action very often, and half-time arrived without score.

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VERY SOON after the resumption Payne's dash for goal was foiled by Briggs racing out, and the ball went to Roberts, who missed a good chance by shooting too high. Luton were more assertive than they had been previously, and PAYNE opened the scoring with a grand shot nearly fifteen minutes after the interval. He took a pass from the right, and although strongly tackled managed to keep his feet and shoot on the turn.

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LUTON had the better of the play, their halves and forwards combining neatly, and in spite of a strong resistance by the County. Stephenson rushed through the ball from Payne's pass, only to have the point disallowed for some reason obscure to the onlookers. Stephenson went close on two other occasions, but Newport's raids were troublesome.

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DOLMAN saved corner kicks very cleverly, but once dropped the ball during a scuffle as he was evading opponents, and Smith made a timely clearance. The result was made safe by a second goal to PAYNE five minutes from the end. He took a pass from the right, beat Kelso, who tried to charge him off, eluded Briggs, and then shot into the vacant goal.

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LUTON were always the better team, and in the first half they gave the impression that they were playing with a good deal of restraint and deliberation. Dolman did his work satisfactorily, and Mackey and Smith were rarely at fault in spite of the troublesome conditions Nelson was as good as ever at centre-half, and Finlayson

and Godfrey found their forwards with good passes, especially in the second half.

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ANY POSSIBILITY of remarkable goal-scoring was frustrated by the conditions, but Payne again did his part well. Both his goals were of the opportunist type, and in spite of the manner in which opponents tried to crowd him he earned his brace. His colleagues strove hard to ply him, but the rough ground and light ball made matters difficult. Roberts and Martin



FRANK BERESFORD

foraged well, and after a rather poor first half Beresford was good in the second. Stephenson was not at his best owing to a damaged ankle.

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DEFENSIVE work was sound. Dolman was always alert, and both Mackey and Smith kicked powerfully and used their heads to good purpose. Nelson was dominant in the middle, and I doubt if Smith had one shot at goal. Finlayson and Godfrey were clever, and if the going had been better they would have been more goals.

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BRIGGS could not be blamed for either goal; when he dashed out he did the right thing, as was proved on two other occasions, one in each half, when he prevented certain goals. The backs kicked well, and the halves fought hard every inch of the way, but only Derrick and Thomas were dangerous forwards, the inside men being crowded out.

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NEWPORT COUNTY	0

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NEWPORT. — Briggs; Jones, Kelso; Burgess, Craven, Jenkins; Derrick, Parle, Smith, Clarke, Thomas.

LUTON. — Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Godfrey; Beresford, Martin, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee.—J. H. Whittle, Worcester.