

Payne Gets Another Brace

A GOAL DISALLOWED

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 2

(Payne 2)

NEWPORT COUNTY 0

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.

STURDY opposition was shown by Newport County, and if there was a regret after the game it was that such a gallant little side should be doomed once more to seek re-election because of this defeat. They were beaten by a cleverer combination altogether; but I thought the County adopted the wrong tactics against a side with so much better physique. As a rule we have been accustomed to the County giving something like exhibition football, even if it has not taken them very far, but on Saturday they began as though there was hope only of avoiding defeat by slugging the ball good and hard anywhere and anyhow, provided it was away from their goal, and they maintained those methods to the end.

A GOAL DISALLOWED

They did this in spite of the fact that there were three or four very clever players on their side—quite as clever as anything Luton had. For an hour those lines succeeded, and then Luton broke through by deliberate constructional work in midfield, and reliance on Payne to get the goals. The victory should have been by three goals clear, not two, for the Newport officials and supporters could not understand why a goal scored by Stephenson was disallowed. It is a mystery still, for the only reason that I could assume, and I was right at the end, was that Stephenson had handled the ball as he rushed in. Certainly he could not be off-side, because there were still a couple of opponents in front of him when he hit the ball as it came across. Stephenson's back was towards me, and so after the game I asked him if he handled, and he said his hand was never near the ball, and he was as puzzled as could be to know why the decision was against him.

HOW THE FIRST CAME

You have read in sundry papers that the Newport players appealed for offside



when Payne scored his first goal, and that the referee only allowed the point after consultation with the linesman. There was no appeal for offside; it was for "hands," and the linesman made no sign whatever; the referee was there with a clear view, and he promptly gave a goal. The Newport players clamoured round him and asked him to consult the linesman, and he did so, then pointing to the centre again. Payne says he did not touch the ball with his hand, and he did not handle in the sense that he infringed the law. The ball struck his hand, however, as he was wrongly tackled from behind, and if he had not got in his shot I think there should have been a penalty kick. He was getting the ball under control when he was charged from behind by Kelso; and he stumbled with his back to the Newport goal; as he went forward the ball bounced up and hit his hand, but he turned and shot without hesitation, and the ball flashed into the net.

BRIGGS NOT AT FAULT

The other goal was also attributed to a mistake by the County goalkeeper. Briggs was not one bit at fault; it was just a fine bit of opportunism by Payne. As the ball came across from the right, Kelso and Payne went for it together and met in a full shouldered charge; Payne knocked the full-back off his feet; the goalkeeper

had come out and the ball was slipped past him by Payne, who then nipped round the custodian and shot into the empty goal—and he did not try to break the back of the net, either, or he might have hit the street on the other side.

WRONG METHODS

Now let me say a word about Newport generally. They began, as I have said, with the idea that Luton must be kept out somehow. There were usually three



men round Payne when the ball came his way, and so he began running out to the wings for long passes; several times had there been other forwards up to take advantage of the passes he sent across there would have been goals, but there was no-one in position to finish off his work. Moreover, the conditions were all against the Town players giving of their best. The ground put me in mind of a friar's head—all bare except for a fringe round the edge, and it was so hard that when the ball dropped it usually bounced very much higher than the players, and often shot off at a tangent. There was also a very strong cross breeze, and altogether it was a very difficult matter to keep the ball down and to make accurate passes.

THE BEST WINGER

Newport had the best winger on the field in Thomas; some of his centres were brilliant, and he made good use of the fact that he had some turf on which to operate. Derrick, on the other extreme, is a youngster who should make a fine player. He has plenty of dash, is very strong and speedy, and can hit a ball with great power and accuracy. They were the two players to give most trouble to Luton. Of the half-backs, Craven had but one object, and that was to dog the steps of Payne, but Burgess often did clever work. The backs were sturdy and resolute, and kicked very well even when hard pressed, and Briggs was a safe goalkeeper.

NO OUTSTANDING PLAYER

Luton had no outstanding performer. Stephenson was bothered by a bad ankle, and dare not go all out; Beresford was cumbersome, but in the second half was much more effective, and got across fine centres. Martin and Roberts always appeared to be playing with something in hand, and had the going been different they would have had better reward for the long passes they sent up the middle. Payne was troublesome from the start, but he seemed anxious to let others do the scoring early on. He led the line well, and his goals were well earned. Nelson was always on top of Smith, the erstwhile record goal scorer of Ayr United in their promotion year. Godfrey was not quite so conspicuous as in previous games, but was troubled by the conditions underfoot. He and Finlayson, however, were prominent with useful passes, and the constructive work of the flank halves and the inside forwards was much more calculated to win a match than that of the County.

DEFENCE

Mackey and Smith also found the hard ground a bother, but they kicked and tackled and headed very coolly, while Dolman made four or five splendid saves, and was very clever in handing over the bar nasty corner kicks from Derrick, who contrived to swerve the ball inwards.

EARLY ESCAPES

Early in the game Briggs rushed out and prevented Payne scoring, for as the latter shot Briggs fell on the ball and it rebounded from his chest for a corner kick. If Payne had scored then things might have taken a different trend. He might have held to the centre of the field better, but he still tested Briggs two or three times, and the County defenders were desperate to cover him when Beresford or Stephenson got the ball across. In one hot scuffle in the County

goal-mouth the defenders packed almost tightly, and several shots rebounded from opponents. On another occasion Payne made the goalkeeper drop the ball, but he was hustled off by a couple of opponents, and no one had closed in. The County wingers made several raids, but they rarely looked like getting in a scoring shot, and the one noteworthy save by Dolman came from an awkward cross-shot by Thomas, the Town goalkeeper cleverly dropping to one side to take the ball. Derrick was always trying hard to get in a shot, but when he was clear he was off the mark, and the interval came:

NEWPORT 0, LUTON 0.

Play continued on much the same lines in the second half, but after a few minutes Payne burst between the backs with a straight line for goal; Briggs ran out and Payne's shot struck him and went to Roberts, who had a fine chance but shot high over the bar. Apart from a faulty pass back by Godfrey there was no danger at the other end, and the Town began to put on pressure. Nelson, Mackey and Smith in turn came up the field, but it was orthodox football that brought the first goal. A cross from the right was seized by PAYNE as Craven and Kelso went for him; he stumbled from the onslaught, but kept his feet, whipped round and crashed home a grand shot that Briggs hardly saw.

DAZZLING MOVEMENT

Newport fought gamely, and many times their wingers brought danger, but Nelson's head bobbed up to rob Smith of any chance when the ball was in the air, and Mackey and Smith kicked well. The passing was better than in the first half, too, and many nice movements took the ball through, there being one dazzling bout of passing on the left which Stephenson crowned with a shot that struck the side net close to the post. This was the best movement of the whole game.

ISSUE SAFE

Good work by Finlayson and Beresford then sent Beresford away, and he beat Kelso and placed the ball to Payne; the latter sent across goal, and Stephenson rushed in and shot into the net past both Jones and Briggs, but the referee whistled for some infringement. However, the Town were the more dangerous, and the issue was made safe when PAYNE got the second goal. He met the ball as it came from the right, charged off the challenge of Kelso, and beat Briggs as the goalkeeper came close up.

There were 6,300 spectators, the best gate the County have had this year.