

AT HOME

LUTON TOWN	1
(Payne)	
SOUTHEND UNITED	0
LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson Nelson, Godfrey; Crompton, Lutterloch Payne Roberts Stephenson.	
SOUTHEND UTD.—McKenzie; Nelson, Everest; Deacon, Turner, Carr; Bolan, Firth, Graham, Egan, Willshaw	
Referee.—W. J. Lewington, Croydon.	

S**OUTHEND** made a spirited fight for the honours at Luton but they were finally beaten in a game that had its thrills at infrequent intervals. Thanks to the excellence of the defences, the ball was generally in midfield, and players had hard work to keep it under control. Frequently, a player of either side would evoke applause by a neat bit of trickery or a sudden spasm of brilliance, and then it would be spoilt because he could not measure the pace of the pass well enough to serve his colleagues.

LACK OF COMBINATION

Luton were worse in this respect than the visitors, because they were usually good at getting the ball on the ground, but, when the pass came, the speed was such that defenders watched a vain chase by forwards to capture the ball before it passed out of play. Particularly was this so in the first half, because, in the second, the players grew so wearied from the effect of the tremendous heat that they could not energise the play sufficiently to make progress, and, of combination, there was little worthy of the name.

CREDIT WHERE DUE

Credit for the goal that won the game must go, in chief measure, to the right wing pair and Finlayson, and especially to the persistence of Crompton, who obtained the corner-kick, and then placed the ball well; it did not look much like a goal as the ball went across, but PAYNE'S opportunism and the very shrewd position he took up, capped the effort.

SOUTHEND'S PLUCK

The goal was scored just before half-time, and, for a considerable period of the second half, the Town had to defend strenuously against equally fierce and determined assaults. Indeed, had Southend been able to keep cool when in front of goal, especially Graham, they could have equalised. The centre-forward had the best chance of the match from close in, but crashed the ball against the bar.

Long before the end, the game had deteriorated very largely into a stopping business, with each defence holding the opposition safely and the crowd were not sorry to hear the final whistle.



J. NELSON