

LUTON'S LEAGUE CLASHES

Cardiff Conquer : Walsall Vanquished

RESERVES IN SPIRITED STRUGGLES

At Cardiff on Saturday,

CARDIFF CITY 3

(Smith (C.) 2, Pugh)

LUTON TOWN 0

CARDIFF CITY.—Fielding; Granville, Scott; Nicholson, Bassett, Godfrey; Pugh, Pinxton, Smith (C.), Talbot, Ovenstone.

LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith (T.); Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Martin, Mills, Roberts, Stephenson. Referee.—E. Gamson, Kidderminster.

LUTON TOWN caused disappointment to their supporters by the decisiveness of their defeat at Cardiff, but it must be said that they scarcely deserved to be beaten by a margin of three goals. Bad luck dogged them throughout the match, and this was most apparent in the second half, when many efforts which deserved to score missed the target by inches.

MARTIN WAS THE CHIEF SUFFERER in this respect, and the Cardiff defence was well blessed by fortune time after time. In the first half, too, Roberts had the worst luck possible when a great shot hit the angle of the post and the bar. A goal at this stage might have made all the difference.

IT MUST BE ADMITTED, however, that the Town failed to reproduce anything like the form which made them such a force in the Third Division last season, and they were never really playing well together. This was particularly noticeable in the first half, when they took a long time to settle down.

CARDIFF had more of the play, and the Town defence was hard pressed, and several mistakes were made. Bad marking led to the first goal, which was scored by SMITH (C.) following a corner, seventeen minutes after the start. He was standing behind the rest of the forwards when the ball came to him, and there was no one near enough to tackle. The second was also scored by the City centre-forward, who took advantage of a slip by Nelson to slip through and beat Dolman from close range. This goal came after thirty-one minutes.

IT WAS AFTER this further setback that Luton began to show better form, and in the second half they promised even better. However, another snap goal, scored by PUGH, the brilliant young winger, put paid to any chances there were of saving the match. The Town had the bulk of the play subsequently, and for long periods the home backs and halves had to work overtime to keep the score-sheet blank.

THE LUTON FORWARDS made frantic efforts to score, but they simply could not get the ball into the net. Their finishing left a lot to be desired, although much of the approach work was brilliant. Mills was once again opposed to a big, resolute centre-half, and did not have much chance to show what he can do. Stephenson was not given enough work, and Hodge, on the other wing, was very clever, but held the ball too long before getting it across.

ROBERTS showed an improvement on his Walsall form, and Martin worked very hard. The wing halves were only moderate, and their service to the forwards was poor for the most part. Nelson had an indifferent first half, but he was his old self after the interval, and successfully stopped Smith (C.). The defence as a whole, however, was not as solid as usual, although Mackey and Smith (T.) got through a tremendous amount of work. The latter had a hard task in marking Pugh, who frequently showed him a clean pair of heels.

NO FAULT could be found with Dolman, who had absolutely no chance of saving the shots which passed him. He effected several excellent clearances, and fielded the ball cleanly. Cardiff have an improved side, and while they are not likely to emulate the deeds of the men who wore their colours in their more palmy days, they should gain a very respectable position in the League before the end of the season.

At Luton on Monday.

LUTON TOWN

Ball, Payne (penalty)

WALSALL

LUTON TOWN.—Dolman,

Smith; Finlayson, Nelson,

Hodge, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson,

WALSALL.—Leckie, Shelton,

Richmond, Morgan, Bradford, Bulger,

wood, Cunningham, Green, Bulger,

Referee.—G. Dutton, Warwick

FROM BEGINNING TO END there

to be only one possible result, for

were pressing severely, almost every

of the game. It is doubtful if there

a period of two minutes during

in which one or other of the Walsall

fencers were not in action, and

for a successful resistance for

minutes must go to the visiting

Not until the closing stages did

make anything in the nature of a

attack, mainly because their forwards

well as their middle men, were

with safeguarding their goal.

LUTON began hammering away

first minute, and, indeed, the game

a minute old before Leckie had

full length from Payne, who was

shoot at any and every opportunity

the first half assault followed

almost monotonous regularity

Luton halves and backs joined in

to break down a very thorough

The halves and backs of the visitors

beaten often enough, but to get a

Leckie was impossible, and again

he was cheered by the crowd.

SHOTS STRUCK THE BAR and

and many times the goalkeeper

self at full length and saved

seemed lost, but there was a certain

nippiness in front of goal among

forwards. There should have been

handsome lead before half-time

of the play, but the teams sought

ing rooms without a goal scored

had one shot only to save in this

THE SECOND HALF continued

fashion, Luton pressing with even

termination, and there were many

scenes in the Walsall goal-mouth.

then Bulger made a raid into

quarters, but the rest of the forwards

little of the ball, and were

deprived of possession before

could get a footing in

territory. Nevertheless the cries

crowd for a goal seemed all in vain,

Walsall goalkeeper continued to

extraordinary feats.

A QUARTER OF AN HOUR from

however, he was beaten. Hodge

along had been a very trouble-

customer to the visitors' defence, driving

cleverly past several defenders and

ball in front of goal, but he was

away to the left. Fellowes took

and swung it right into goal.

managed to push it away to the right.

BALL, who had just changed places

Payne headed into the net.

WALSALL made strong efforts then

gave some trouble to the home defence,

but they were beaten off, and during

attack Harwood, who had fallen back

to help his colleagues, handled the ball

cleared. The referee awarded a penalty

kick, and PAYNE netted with a terrific

shot. Walsall again strove to get a

goal, and nearly did so through a

misunderstanding among the home

defenders, but Dolman had to make

one or two saves, but the end

came without further score.

LUTON'S rearranged forward line

showed any amount of grit and

perseverance, although the finer

points of the game were

not so much in evidence. Hodge

was the nick of the five, and played

brilliantly, but Roberts also did

grand work, and all were

triers to the end. The halves gave

plenty of support to the attack, and

there was nothing wrong with the

rearguard until their misunderstanding

just before the end, and that

might well have proved fatal.

WALSALL owed nearly everything

to Leckie, who saved them from a

crushing defeat. His backs

kicked and tackled

strongly, and Morgan did well

at half, but only Bulger of the

forwards showed the ability

to give the home defence any

trouble.

There were 11,000 spectators.

Combination Champions at Luton

AT LUTON ON SATURDAY

LUTON RESERVES 1

Stevens

PORTSMOUTH RESERVES 1

Crawshaw

LUTON RESERVES.—Coen; Booton, Hubbard; Gooney, M'Ginnigle, Kidd; Rich, Patrick, Ball, Sloan, Stevens.

PORTSMOUTH RESERVES.—Strong; Gundry, Mackrell; Young, Rowe, Pringle; Hird, Anderson, Crawshaw, M'Carthy, Beaumont.

Referee.—L. Brown, Barnes.

OVER 6,000 SPECTATORS saw a very keen, hard-fought game, in which the champions of the London Combination were fortunate to take away a point. In some phases of the game they were better than Luton, but the Town did much the more pressing, and had the forwards been able to clinch their attacks better, the two points would have remained at Luton.

POMPEY STARTED WELL, and the ball went from end to end at a great pace. It was the virtue of quick tackling and good positioning that showed the superior tactics of the visitors, but the Town responded gallantly, and when they began to swing the ball about in the way of the visitors they were rewarded by giving the Pompey defence pulsating moments.

STRONG made several brilliant saves in the first half, and at the other end M'Carthy hit the bar with a great shot. Each side got the ball into the net. Ball for Luton and Crawshaw for the visitors, but the former had pushed off an opponent before shooting, and the latter was whistled offside long before he got to the ball to shoot.

THERE WAS NO SCORE until some time

after the interval, and it was anybody's game right to the end. Curiously enough, Luton opened the score when they were short-handed, Patrick having left the field for attention to a damaged knee. The ball was swung across goal, and beat all the defenders, so that all STEVENS had to do was to head into the vacant goal, but credit must go to the youngster for the sensible way he had closed in, a thing he did often and rightly.

IT APPEARED as though this would be the only point, but there was some rather indifferent play by the whole of the Town defenders during an assault by the visitors, and although the ball was once cleared, it was returned to find CRAWSHAW unopposed with the easiest chance in the world, and he took it.

COEN did his work well, and Booton gave a very fine display at back, with Hubbard little behind. The halves all did well, and none better than Kidd, whose skill was as high as that of any player on view, although at times his passing was not so good. M'Ginnigle was usually too much for the opposing leader, and Gooney put in capital work.

THE FORWARDS did not have a good day. They were not quick enough to overcome the sharp tackling, lusty kicking and vigorous charging of the opposition, and although Strong was much more frequently tested than Coen and his goal had far closer escapes, there was much room for improvement in the home attack. Sloan was the outstanding artist, but Patrick was thrustful until he got hurt. That all were workmen is true, but with Ball invariably smothered by the opposing pivot, there were not many good shots.