

At Luton on Monday.

LUTON TOWN

Ball, Payne (penalty) 2

WALSALL

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Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Mackey,
Hodge, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson;
WALSALL.—Leckie; Shelton, Wiles;
Richmond, Morgan, Bradford; Bell, Har-
wood, Cunningham, Green, Bulger.
Referee.—G. Dutton, Warwick.

FROM BEGINNING TO END there seemed to be only one possible result, for Luton were pressing severely, almost every minute of the game. It is doubtful if there were a period of two minutes during the game in which one or other of the Walsall defenders were not in action, and all credit for a successful resistance for seventy-five minutes must go to the visiting defence. Not until the closing stages did the visitors make anything in the nature of a sustained attack, mainly because their forwards, as well as their middle men, were concerned with safeguarding their goal.

LUTON began hammering away in the first minute, and, indeed, the game was not a minute old before Leckie had saved at full length from Payne, who was ready to shoot at any and every opportunity. During the first half assault followed assault with almost monotonous regularity, and the Luton halves and backs joined in the efforts to break down a very thorough defence. The halves and backs of the visitors were beaten often enough, but to get a shot past Leckie was impossible, and again and again he was cheered by the crowd.

SHOTS STRUCK THE BAR and the posts, and many times the goalkeeper flung himself at full length and saved when all seemed lost, but there was a certain lack of nippiness in front of goal among the home forwards. There should have been a very handsome lead before half-time on the run of the play, but the teams sought the dressing rooms without a goal scored. Dolman had one shot only to save in this period.

THE SECOND HALF continued in like fashion, Luton pressing with even more determination, and there were many exciting scenes in the Walsall goal-mouth. Now and then Bulger made a raid into Luton's quarters, but the rest of the forwards saw little of the ball, and were generally deprived of possession before they could get a footing in Luton's territory. Nevertheless the cries of the crowd for a goal seemed all in vain, and the Walsall goalkeeper continued to perform extraordinary feats.

A QUARTER OF AN HOUR from the end, however, he was beaten. Hodge, who all along had been a very troublesome customer to the visitors' defence, dribbled cleverly past several defenders and sent the ball in front of goal, but he was kicked away to the left. Fellowes took possession and swung it right into goal: Leckie managed to push it away to the right, and BALL, who had just changed places with Payne, headed into the net.

WALSALL made strong efforts then, and gave some trouble to the home defence, but they were beaten off, and during another attack Harwood, who had fallen back to help his colleagues, handled the ball as he cleared. The referee awarded a penalty kick, and PAYNE netted with a terrific low shot. Walsall again strove to get a goal, and nearly did so through a misunderstanding among the home defenders, and 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 pick 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 good 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.