

Reading Never Had a Look in

By PETER WILSON

Luton Town 4, Reading 0

HAVING by use of a mariner's compass and a great deal of native intelligence discovered the whereabouts of the Press box on the Luton ground—really it is more securely tucked away than the middle of the maze at Hampton Court—I was rewarded by seeing the Town beat Reading by 4—0.

Sixty-five minutes of the match contained good football—on Luton's part at least—but the closing twenty-five almost washed out the earlier good impression. Luton had played themselves out.

From the very start it was obvious that Luton were going to be all over their rivals.

The result was that inside five minutes Payne, Luton's inside right, as unmarked as a blank cheque, had put in two shots, scoring from the second. Five minutes later Stephenson had also scored—from a free-kick.

Payne got Luton's third goal, cutting across like an L driver to beat the goalkeeper to the ball.

Shot Their Bolt

Once again at the start of the second "leg" Luton had all the play, and had it not been for some good keeping by Whittaker they must have scored at least twice more.

But even when Reading did get a chance to attack their forwards, with the occasional exception of McGough, were in serious danger of being mistaken for the gentleman who is known as "Flannel Foot."

Payne got his third and Luton's fourth goal after about a quarter of an hour, but then the Strawplaiters seemed to have shot their bolt, and even allowing for the ineptness of the Reading attacks, the visitors might have scored had it not been for the home centre half.

This Nelson did not need a column. Both in height and ability he towered over the others.

Luton's Fine Spirit

PAYNE scored a hat-trick again, and brought his bag to 11 for six games. That is good going, but it was by no means a case of Payne deserving all the glory.

Luton's attack has certainly been metttled by this youngster, who has the tremendous virtue of being in the right spot when chances

are presented by others.

Nelson was the inspiring stalwart of Luton's sound defence, but the whole team played with fine spirit and understanding, and none merited greater praise than another.

Payne, Stephenson, Payne before half-time, and Payne afterwards was the order of scoring, and the scorer received from Ball each time

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Payne Score Three : Luton Master Reading

Luton Town 4 Reading

ONCE more Payne, Luton's champion scorer, was on the mark, and he collected three more goals against Reading.

He has the faculty of being in the right place when there are opportunities abundant and of making the most of them. He has yet to learn in some respects, but he has become an important link in Luton's attack and knows no fear, however desperate and weighty the opposition.

He scored twice in the first two minutes and again after an hour, supplying the passes for all three goals. Stephenson got the other goal with a brilliant free kick from twenty yards.

Reading's vigorous defensive measures caused some heartburning among the crowd and there were times when retaliation brought rebukes all round.

Luton's team work was splendid and they were class fore and aft. Mackey and Smith were good tacklers. Nelson was at his best as pivot, and Finlayson and Fellowes linked up with a thrustful and clever attack.