

READING ROUTED

LUTON ATTACK IN BRILLIANT FORM

(By CRUSADER)



JACK BALL

LUTON TOWN	4
READING	0

LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

READING.—Whittaker; Gregory Done; Robertson, Hayhurst, Wright; Watkin, McGough, Allen, Glidden, Owen.

Referee: W. E. Ross-Gower, Abbey Wood. LUTON TOWN delighted their followers by a dashing and clever victory over Reading on Saturday. The visitors were kept fighting on the retreat almost from the start, and although they lacked nothing in pluck and determination, they never looked like holding the Town attack, which was at its best.

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PAYNE started the scoring after four minutes, when Ball presented him with an easy opening, and Stephenson added the second goal five minutes later from a free kick direct, the ball travelling from just outside the penalty area into the farther corner of the net at lightning speed.

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PAYNE put on the third after twenty minutes, again as the result of a pass by Ball, although as in the previous case, the other forwards had taken part in the advance. Now and then Reading raided, but they did not give Dolman any trouble.

for Nelson held Allen securely, and the Town backs gave the wingers very little scope.

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THE LEAD might have been doubled before the interval had Ball, Payne, and Roberts taken their opportunities, the centre-forward twice blazing wide of the mark when he had a good chance, and Roberts and Payne also failed to get the right direction on their efforts. However, the Town forwards and halves kept right on top of the opposition, and harassed the Reading defence almost unceasingly.

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WITHOUT UNDULY EXERTING themselves, Luton maintained the upper hand throughout the second half, and the Reading goal had several narrow escapes before PAYNE scored his third goal, yet again as the result of an unselfish pass by Ball. More chances were missed, too, but play was never up to the high level of the first period.

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NOT UNTIL THE CLOSING STAGES, when the Town were disposed to take matters easily, did Reading give Dolman anything very serious, and then the Town goalkeeper brought off a couple of saves at full length. The Town defence was generally too quick and alert for the visitors to get in direct shots at goal.

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DOLMAN had a quiet afternoon, and Mackey and Smith played finely at back, while Nelson was at his very best, and the Reading inside forwards could make nothing of him. Finlayson and Fellowes were great purveyors, and assisted their forwards in the numerous attacks, which were carried out at great speed.

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PAYNE'S THREE GOALS were the outcome of all-round forward work, the line moving with machine-like precision, and making the ball do the work. Hodge and Stephenson had speed and centred well, and they got all the support they required from Payne, Roberts and Ball, the last-named leading the attack with all his old skill and energy.

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READING'S DEFENCE had a hard time, and Hayhurst was their best support to Whittaker, who kept goal splendidly, and had no chance with any scoring shot. Little was seen of the attack, so well held were they by the Town middle line.