

FOUR AGAINST WATFORD

LUTON TOWN'S BRILLIANT SUCCESS IN NEEDLE GAME

(By CRUSADER)



FELLOWES

LUTON TOWN gained a decisive victory over Watford, and that by all-round skill and superior team work. It was as hard a struggle as could be expected, marred considerably by the methods of one or two of the visiting side, who showed ill temper towards Payne because of his liveliness in front of goal.

FROM THE FIRST KICK the crowd, the largest of the season at Luton, were kept in a ferment, and the splendid following of the visitors were overjoyed when the first quarter of an hour found the sterling efforts of their forwards rewarded by a clever goal by DEVAN. Luton had done rather more pressing, but Watford were very dangerous in attack, moving swiftly and shooting hard.

FOR A LONG TIME it was touch and go, the ball travelling from end to end at a fast pace and Watford shot at every conceivable opportunity. Luton were just as eager, though they were not shooting with the same persistency as the visitors, but the Watford goal had some close calls before it fell to a grand goal by BALL, who beat Armstrong and drove in with such power that McLaren could not stop the ball although he got his hands to it.

LUTON several times came near to increasing their score before the change of ends, but McLaren and his colleagues managed to keep them out. Ball worked very hard during this period, and if some of the other forwards had been wise enough to close up into the middle when he swooped down on the wings there might have been another goal. Still, the level terms was generally a fair reflex of the first half.

NELSON had been playing under difficulties from early in the game, when he received a nasty blow in the face, apparently from an opponent's head. He did not turn out with the team for the re-start, but the Town went at it as though determined to make up for his absence, and when he did come on at the end of four minutes he had the heartening sight of a grand goal from PAYNE. Finlayson gave the inside-right a splendid pass to go on and deliver a terrific shot which McLaren hardly saw.

WATFORD made attempts to rally, but they did not give so much trouble as in the first half, and although Dolman had to handle several times, there was nothing very exacting about his work. On the other hand, the Town were always going better, and gradually they became almost complete masters of the match. Many attempts were frustrated before PAYNE received a beautiful pass from Hodge that enabled him to rush through the defence and score with another hard drive.

THE TOWN FORWARDS swarmed round the Watford goal for periods, and whenever the visitors got away they were usually well covered by the Town defenders. They never ceased trying to pull the game round, but their halves were suffering from the effects of a lot of racing about. Stephenson and Ball each struck the upright, and the former had very hard luck, while McLaren touched the shot from Ball on to the post.

THE LAST GOAL came as the result of a fine move by the Town left wing, and when the ball was middled, Ball headed it on to the right, where PAYNE again seized and running close in, shot well out of McLaren's reach. The Town were well on top in the closing stages, and merited their victory.

WATFORD were best served by McLaren, O'Brien, Armstrong and Reed at half, and Barnett and Devan forward. Luton were better because they had better team work. Once they had cottoned to the style of the visitors, or their determination, and matched it with equal resolution and scientific tactics, they were always superior. Every man played well, though one may be permitted a special word for Fellowes, because this must have been almost his best game since he came to Luton.

LUTON TOWN 4
WATFORD 1

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

WATFORD.—McLaren; O'Brien, Woodward; Morgan, Armstrong, Reed; Davies (W), Barnett, Walters, Devan, Tinklin.

Referee.—I. H. Wright, Derby.