

SEVENTH HOME SUCCESS

LUTON OVERCOME BOURNEMOUTH BY ODD GOAL

(By CRUSADER.)

LUTON TOWN 1
BOURNEMOUTH & BOSCOMBE 0

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

BOURNEMOUTH.—Mellors; King, Bellis; Smith, Pincott, Lawrence; Burns, Whittam, Riley, Chalmers, Parris

Referee; G. T. Gould, London.

ENTERTAINING their closest rivals for the leadership on Saturday, LUTON TOWN scored the only goal of the match, and thus took two points lead of any club in the Division. Conditions were true to the time of the year, and were anything but comfortable, and, although having an effect on the football, the game was as clean and sporting a contest as any there has been at Luton this term.

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DEFENDING the Kenilworth-road end, the Town soon found the visitors a lively lot, and the game was soon in full swing, the ball travelling from end to end. The Town were the more aggressive, and while they kept the ball on the move they had the Bournemouth defenders struggling. The Town left flank was very active, and Fellowes opened a movement which enabled Stephenson to centre from the line, and PAYNE dashed through a ruck of players and headed a grand goal five minutes after the kick-off.

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MANY TIMES the Town strove to penetrate during the next quarter of an hour, but the visitors defended gamely, and never lost their heads. Eventually clever play on the Bournemouth left menaced the Town defence, but Smith cleared strongly, and Nelson and Mackey in turn repelled efforts. Once, however Riley got right through and drove in brilliantly, but Coen flung himself across and saved in wonderful fashion.

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ADOPTION of offside tactics by the visiting defenders spoiled many movements by the Town forwards falling into the traps very simply. Now and then Hodge got across a good ball, but most of the danger came from the fine combination of Fellowes and his left wing, and Stephenson once missed a fine chance after beating the defenders for pace, and shortly before the change of ends Ball took a shot on the turn and Mellors saved at full length.

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MELLORS was soon in action after the re-start, taking the ball off Payne's head very cleverly in one attack, but he should have been beaten by Roberts soon afterwards, the inside-left rushing through the defence with the ball at his feet, only to lift it well over the bar from close range.

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THEN CAME A LONG PERIOD in which the Town players did not get going at all smoothly, and the visitors frequently threatened to draw level. Following a corner kick, a grand header by Whittam just whizzed past the farther post, and Coen was called upon several times. However, the Town defenders rarely allowed a Bournemouth forward to get a straight shot at goal, but the forwards could not carry on the good work of the men behind them.



COEN

IN THE LAST quarter of an hour the Town rallied again, and Hodge just failed with a fine drive all along the ground. Roberts was tripped when he had raced through the opposition and was within two or three yards of goal, and a penalty kick should have been awarded. Then Mellors came out and flung himself on top of the ball as Payne was about to shoot from half a dozen yards range.

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JUST BEFORE THE END the Town forwards missed the easiest of openings, for Payne managed to get across a grand centre from near the corner flag, and the ball eluded all the defenders, and was gathered close in by Stephenson, but he could not turn it past Mellors, for it struck the goalkeeper's body, and then, in a mix-up, neither Roberts nor Ball could send it home and it was got away. Bournemouth were plucky to the end, and almost the last kick of the match was a corner taken by Parris, but the Town defenders proved safe.

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THE GAME was full of contrasts, for, after playing beautiful football for a time, the Town forwards would fall away, and could do nothing right. This occurred at two or three periods, yet they had enough of the play to have won handsomely if they had taken the chances that they and Finlayson and Fellowes created. Payne and Roberts were the most consistent performers in the attack, though all worked hard. Nothing would go right for Hodge.

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FINLAYSON and Fellowes played brilliant football, and gave the attack every support, while Nelson usually contrived to keep a firm grip on Riley, who escaped vigilance only at rare intervals. Mackey and Smith played well at back, and Coen, though having little to do was quite safe.

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FOR BOURNEMOUTH Mellors kept goal well, and he had two fine backs to assist him, while Pincott was a good pivot. The flank halves worked well, and of the forwards, Riley was a lively leader, and Chalmers was a really class player, and, in conjunction with Parris, was responsible for most of the threats to the Town goal.