

KEPT LUTON IN LEAD

BOSCOMBE MADE FINE FIGHT

By S. J. FRENCH

Luton Town ...1 Boscombe0
(Attendance 11,000)

BOSCOMBE showed admirable fighting qualities in their attempt to displace the League leaders at Luton, but they had no effective reply to one of Payne's "specials" early in the game.

Payne's goal, his 17th in 11 games this season, was scored from a corner kick, and I doubt whether more than a few players could have got it.

As the ball left Stephenson's foot, Payne (inside right) ran and met it passing the near post; it was in the net as Mellors was putting up his hands.

Luton, I thought, were a shade the better side. They had the pull in attack, which looked first class when all five forwards were up together; but Boscombe's defence was no less excellent.

SAVE OF MATCH

In a thoroughly interesting first half Coen, keeping goal against his old club, made the save of the match. Riley, the Boscombe centre forward running on to a gorgeous through pass from Burns, hit the ball hard to the left of Coen, who moved like lightning to divert the shot.

Parris was Boscombe's best forward, and it was unfortunate that an injury subdued him in the second half.

Roberts and Stephenson missed good scoring chances for Luton after the interval, when the visitors, despite their handicap, showed the better team work. Pincott went up for a corner kick and nearly equalised; but a better chance went to Burns, who shot badly when Chalmers had run half the length of the field to make an opening.

Nelson played his usual sound game for Luton, which means that the Boscombe centre forward had faint hope of getting a scoring position, and Pincott was almost equally good on the other side. King, right back, and Lawrence, left half, were cool and skilful for the losers.

Luton Town.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Payne, Ball, Roberts, Stephenson.

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

"TEN-GOAL" PAYNE

LUTON have played seven League games at home, and won them all. You can't do better than that. But they had all a job to beat Boscombe by a goal to none.

It was a special occasion, Luton top of the table, and Boscombe on their coat tails.

The only difference was in goal average.

On the tramp... tramp... tramp to the ground fans were figuring up how many goals Joe Payne would score. Joe got the one, and brought his total for 13 League matches to 17. Hot stuff.

I have seen Luton three times in three seasons. They were not the completely masterful side on Saturday I had watched run round Chelsea and West Ham in F.A. Cup ties. That's a big compliment to Boscombe, a

Luton Town 1
Bournemouth 0

thrusting, all-the-way team. These Boscombe chaps exposed flaws in the home ranks. They made the Roberts-Stephenson wing have a very moderate match caused some uncertainty in Smith, the left back, and sometimes worried Nelson, semi-third back, out of his liberation. Nelson on occasion dribbled dangerously near his own goal, but I praise him for some shrewd passes down the middle.

I had heard much about Ten Goal Payne. A cool player, with ideas, and two feet. He proved this by a great left-foot drive in the second half. The ball hummed a foot wide. That shot was made from an awkward position. When there was anything doing near goal, Payne was usually on the spot. Boscombe rightly looked after Payne pretty well. He was too quick for them when he headed a beautiful goal after seven minutes.

Stephenson centred perfectly—his best thing of the afternoon—and Payne finished the movement. A Boscombe head had an equal chance to meet the ball.

Luton should have scored at least one more goal before Boscombe thoroughly settled down. Then they had to contest every yard of ground. Luton play five forwards up, and as Nelson was usually with his backs, gaps appeared. Boscombe twice

scudded through these open spaces. Chalmers made a crashing drive; Riley, with all the goal to aim at, fired the ball to the only place Coen could reach it. A thrilling save; yet he should not have been allowed that golden moment. Coen knows his part, so does Mellors, of Boscombe. Two good men.

Crowd Surprised

THE Boscombe form, for a long half-hour after the interval was an eye-opener to the crowd—and to the Luton team. Their only faults were that Riley, at centre, scarcely had the backing from his inside men he deserved, and that Parris, outside left, was sometimes forgotten. But they were often a menace, and I don't know how Burns, outside right, kicked many yards wide from easy range and perfect position. Neither did he. Burns scratched his head.

Boscombe had a fine left half in Lawrence. I also liked King, right back. King was very happy with Roberts and Stephenson in the second half. He was the equal of Mackey, Luton right back. And Mackey did almost everything right.

I have left Fellowes, Luton left-half, till last. His football was high grade. Though the ball came off the wet ground at a great pace, he trapped it, dribbled and served splendidly. Bad luck for him his wing could seldom respond.

A close, often exciting, and good class game, considering the slippery ball and puzzling wind. Two ragged patches in the second half could be excused. Third Division football certainly is well worth watching. I was a little amused to hear a knot of spectators summing up the game as "poor." Put it down to their goal-hunger being unappeased. They wanted a penalty. Well, Mr Gould (West Norwood) was admirably placed to see. So there you are.

Good form this: Luton should win at Northampton and Bournemouth beat Cardiff visitors.

ARTHUR SIMMONS.