

COBBLERS' SECOND HALF SUPREMACY

LUTON DISAPPOINT IN "DERBY" MATCH

By CHILTERN

NORTHAMPTON TOWN 3
(Rawlings (2), Lyman)

LUTON TOWN 1
(Payne)

NORTHAMPTON TOWN. — Gormlie; Russell, Little; Riches, Thayne, Simpson; Rawlings, Hewitt, Allen, Tolland, Lyman.

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

Referee: A. W. Smith, Birmingham.

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IN A GAME FULL OF THRILLS AND EXCITEMENT AT NORTHAMPTON, Luton Town failed to stay the course, and they were well beaten. A great crowd of 19,000, which included a large number of Lutonians, saw the exchanges, and the display put up by the Town was a source of keen disappointment to those who had made the journey.

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THE CHIEF REASON FOR THE DEFEAT was a general falling off in defence. They all seemed to tire midway through the second half, and the Cobblers' thrustful methods brought success. On several occasions they had the entire Luton rearguard guessing, but some of their efforts at finishing were weak in the extreme.

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THE COBBLERS HAD THE FORTUNE TO WIN THE TOSS, and thus had the advantage of a strong wind. It was felt then that unless they scored in the first half, they would have little chance of winning the match, but exactly the reverse happened. Each side attacked in turn, with the home side perhaps holding the balance of play.

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BOTH DEFENCES STOOD UP TO PRESSURE WELL, and at half-time there was no indication that four goals would be scored before the game was over. The work of both sets of forwards before the interval usually stopped near the penalty spot, though both had several chances to open the scoring. Each goal in turn had narrow escapes, and that the teams should have been on level terms was perfectly fair, and a great tribute to the defensive work put in by the Town.

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JACK NELSON WAS IN GREAT FORM, and he was a dominant figure in the centre of the field. Allen could make little or nothing of him, and Coen's task was not a heavy one. On the resumption, Luton took up the running, as we had expected they would, and Roberts headed against the bar. The Cobblers' goal had another narrow escape, and for the first six or seven minutes the ball was continually in their goalmouth. Then a neat movement on the Northampton right gave RAWLINGS an opportunity, and he cut in and beat Coen easily.

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AFTER THIS THE TOWN FORWARDS FADED RIGHT OUT OF THE PICTURE, and Luton were forced on the defensive.



TOM MACKEY

The defence as a whole was more vulnerable than in the first half, and Coen brought off two or three great saves. Pressure was maintained for some time, and it was only occasionally that the visiting forwards were dangerous. Then PAYNE, who had been well marked throughout, received a pass from Finlayson, and he broke clean through to net with a grand drive.

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THIS GOAL CAME TWELVE MINUTES FROM THE END, but a minute later the Town were in arrears again, for the Cobblers swept down the field immediately from the restart, and RAWLINGS netted. This took all the fight out of the Town, and their efforts afterwards were feeble, though Payne went very near with another express shot. The Cobblers continued to attack, and three minutes from the end LYMAN put on their third goal.

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COEN WAS A STAR IN THE LUTON DEFENCE, and they all did great work in the first half. Nelson tried to rally his forces later, and Mackey and Smith were run off their feet. Finlayson and Fellowes had a gruelling time, and they suffered by comparison with the Cobblers' wing halves, Payne and Roberts were the best of the forwards, though Ball did very well in the first half. Hodge had rather a bad match, and Stevens did not receive the passes he should.