

SOUTHEND'S SECOND HALF SUPERIORITY

(By KAY BEE).

At Southend on Saturday.

SOUTHEND UNITED	3
(Lane, Dickinson and Goddard)	
LUTON TOWN	0

SOUTHEND UNITED.—Mackenzie; Nelson, Robinson; Harris, Turner, Spelman; Bird, Lane, Dickinson, Goddard and Oswald.

LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Rich, Roberts, Payne, Dawes and Stevens.

If Luton Town and Southend United had kept to the form of the first half of their Boxing Day match at the Stadium, the match would have ended as the first half ended: 0—0. But Southend did not; they scored three goals in the last twenty minutes when they were definitely on top. The Town never looked really dangerous in that time.

Seldom, during the second half, did the Town forwards get moving with any sort of combination, and what efforts there were at attack were individual ones. Dawes moved to the centre, with Payne on his right and Roberts inside left, but that did

not seem to make much difference to the line—the vital fire was missing all afternoon.

FIRST HALF THRILLS

The first half was an affair of attack and counter attack. Southend were exhibiting the fault which dropped them to the bottom of the table two seasons ago—an ability to weave pretty patterns anywhere on the field, but lack of finishing which rendered their best movement abortive. Dolman was not much troubled, thanks to sterling work by Smith, Nelson and Mackey.

Whatever danger threatened to the Town goal came from Oswald's wing, where Mackey had a tough time trying to smother the agile winger.

Dawes and Roberts provided most of the fireworks, both trying shots from long range, and twice when Payne thrust his way past Turner and had the goal open to him the whistle went for offside. Roberts, with Rich on the outside, helped Payne in several efforts, but although for long periods the play was in the Southend half, Robinson, who had travelled in the night from Bournemouth to take the place of the injured Everest, was sure in his tackling.

There were thrills in the first half although they were few and far between. Smith kicked the ball off the line when Dolman missed an awkwardly placed one from Oswald, and a few minutes later Roberts, receiving the ball from a scramble in the Southend goal, slammed in a shot which struck Payne and momentarily winded him. Spelman and Roberts were down with injuries received in the mix-up at the same time.

Dolman saved an awkward situation when he came out of his goal and dribbled the ball almost to the half-way line before kicking it out of play.

Half time brought no score.

Light was beginning to fade when the teams came out again, and this, together with a slight sea-mist, made it difficult to follow the flight of the ball.

FELLOWES' QUIANT PASSES

The failing light was responsible for two unusual occurrences. Twice Fellowes passed the ball neatly over the touch-line to where a ball-boy, clad in white jersey and black knickers, was racing along, keeping pace with the play. The mistakes were pardonable.

After twenty minutes of the second half Luton were playing like a tired team, and the smaller seashiders began to look very good in comparison. Their attacks became more and more dangerous, and only a quick bit of work by Mackey saved a certain goal when Goddard collided with Dolman. Nelson got the ball away from the goal-mouth, but Oswald brought it back immediately and Mackey stopped his shot.

IGNORED APPEAL

The tasks of the Luton backs was becoming harder, and it came as no surprise when Southend got through. A beautiful passing movement gave LANE a shot from close in, and he beat Dolman with a cross-drive. The referee ignored a Luton appeal for offside.

Luton replied with an attack, Dawes getting away from a long pass up the field by Mackey, and Mackenzie did well to stop his shot. In another Luton raid Roberts was fouled just outside the penalty area, but Robinson got his foot to the shot. Turner had Dawes under close watch, and Payne was not allowed any rope.

TWO LATE GOALS

DICKINSON, who showed a surprising turn of speed when it was needed, scored Southend's second ten minutes from the end. It was the result of another passing movement which left him a clear passage to goal. Five minutes later GODDARD, who had gone to the outside position, scored after Nelson had headed out a corner from Bird. Southend were still attacking when the whistle blew.

The two most notable performances of the day was the game played by seventeen-years-old Harris, Southend's right half. It was his first time out with the League team. He joined Southend this season, previously playing as an amateur at Leamington.