

LUTON LAY CARDIFF OUT FLAT

PAYNE GETS FOURTH "HAT-TRICK"

Luton 3, Cardiff City 1

LUTON are themselves once again. That fast-raiding, quick-firing, five-forward attacking line came into their own against a demoralised defence, who, after a period of apparent confidence, fizzled out as would a damp squib.

For McAuley, late of Chelsea, and Mellor, formerly with Manchester United, the game must have been a nightmare.

The two backs were making their first appearance for the Welshmen, and apart from a lack of understanding they were behind half-backs who were hopelessly at sea against an irresistible attack. Once they settled down, each of the Luton forwards appeared to have acres of ground in which to manœuvre whenever in possession.

It may have been due to clever footwork and positional play, helped by feeble and indecisive covering on Cardiff's rear.

A Peculiar Game

It was a peculiar game. For 20 minutes there was little "in it." Luton had scored first through Payne, but Prescott, a really excellent enterprising boy, had weaved his way from the wing to the centre to shoot a glorious goal to square matters.

Then, before the interval, Payne scored for Luton from a penalty and Dawes direct from a free kick, and the Beds team had gained a good lead.

After this came the deluge! In seven minutes Luton had added three more goals, two by Stephenson and one by Payne, who thus completed his fourth hat-trick of the season.

Stephenson then took matters into his own hands, twice went through alone to equal the feat of his free-scoring colleague, and Payne, as if annoyed at being rivalled in the art of scoring, crashed through his fourth goal. Cardiff were overwhelmed.

Although without Nelson, Mackey and Hodge, Luton were a thoroughly satisfactory team. McGinnigle may not possess the speed of Nelson, but he played the Luton game and enabled the whole of the forwards to concentrate on attack.

Hancock, the reserve centre-forward, was a definite success on the extreme right wing. Really fast, he is a player who knows how to use the ball and who can "take it." He is a real discovery.

And it must be remembered he was faced by McAuley, a man of experience. But the Luton boy literally "toyed" with him.

Luton.—Dolman, Smith, Hubbard, Finlayson, McGinnigle, Fellows, Hancock, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Cardiff City.—Poland, Mellor, McAuley, Nicholson, J. Smith, Godfrey, Prescott, Talbot, Melphany, Walton, Pugh.