

# Luton's Gallant Struggle

## Clever Blackpool Held By Ten Men

### THE MIGHTY MACKEY

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN FAILED to oust BLACKPOOL from the F.A. Cup competition on Saturday, but they must have increased their hold upon the supporters by the magnificent manner in which they pulled an apparently lost game out of the fire, and qualified for a further meeting at Blackpool yesterday.

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IT WAS A GRAND STRUGGLE, and Luton could account themselves desperately unlucky, because after five minutes' play they had Hancock so severely injured that he was a passenger for the remainder of the time he stayed on the field, and midway through the second half he retired altogether. Perhaps that was as well, for several times the ball had been sent to him and he was unable to respond.

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HEAVY GROUND enabled players with ability to control to shine, but play was very fast and exciting throughout, working up to a climax in which the Town brought off a wonderful recovery, and were playing better at the close almost than at any other period of the game. They had the measure of the visiting defence then, and were giving more trouble.

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EARLY PLAY went in favour of the Town, who held the upper hand and did much more pressing in the first twenty minutes, though the visitors showed no little cleverness in their approach work, and whenever they gained ground they were menacing the Town goal. They had chances that were well worked for, but shot badly.

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PAYNE PAVED THE WAY for a good opening for Hancock very soon, and the winger closed in rapidly, but he shot tamely, and Wallace picked up the ball easily and cleared. Mackey then came into the limelight with splendid clearances, and attempts by the Town were checked only with the greatest difficulty.

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STEPHENSON raced through and drove in a delightful oblique shot, which Wallace saved brilliantly by diving to the left and turning the ball to one side. Had Hancock not been injured, he would have had a grand chance, for the goalkeeper was down, but he was lame, and could not reach the ball in time.

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BLACKPOOL'S RIGHT WING broke through, and Middleton had a fine chance, but he shot badly. However, the visitors came again, Finan being very dangerous, and Dolman saved at full length from Middleton. A determined rush by the visitors brought success; a hard shot was pushed out by Dolman and went straight to the feet of FINAN, who made no mistake with a hard drive.

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LUTON REPLIED STRONGLY, and Payne again beat the defence with a fine pass to the right, but once more Hancock's crippled state prevented him getting to the ball before Witham got it away. However, the Town forwards were playing finely, Roberts and Stephenson especially, and the former dribbled across and was cutting in to goal from the right when his feet were whipped from under him just inside the penalty area.

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THE REFEREE spoke to a linesman and then placed the ball on the penalty line. Martin took the kick and sent the ball low right across goal, and PAYNE met it on the run and drove it into the net to equalise amidst tremendous cheering. The visitors had to fight hard in defence, and they were none too scrupulous, and the crowd began to show signs of displeasure.

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FINLAYSON sent Payne through with a lovely pass, and the centre-forward bored through, but his terrific shot just lofted the bar. Cardwell robbed Payne a moment later, and Blair cleared well at close quarters from Stephenson. Payne again gave Hancock a pass, and the winger hobbled past Witham and then sent the ball across goal, Roberts' header going just wide.

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SMITH WAS PULLED UP for a tackle that was adjudged dangerous, and from the free kick the ball went into the Town goalmouth; Nelson and Dolman should have cleared, but between them the ball was muffed, and MIDDLETON raced in and turned it into the net to put the visitors ahead again.

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CLEVER WORK by the Town left wing gave Roberts a chance, and he drove in a good shot well wide of Wallace's left hand, but the ball struck the upright and rebounded. Then Stephenson broke through brilliantly and shot finely, but Wallace saved close to the upright.

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A DETERMINED EFFORT by Blackpool was held up by Nelson, and then Hancock showed once more how easily he could beat Witham, for crippled though he was, he left the full-back amazed, and from his centre Stephenson just missed the target gain. Blackpool came back, and Watmough had a fine opportunity, but went wide, and the Town's reply to this was a move in which Hancock joined, and Roberts tore through the defence, and a goal seemed certain, but he shot hastily and well wide, and half-time arrived with the visitors leading.

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BLACKPOOL ..... 2  
LUTON ..... 1

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THE TOWN set about their task very strongly, and the forward swarmed round the visitors' goal for a few minutes, Roberts hitting the post and Payne heading against the bar. Wallace cleared his net twice, and then Blackpool woke up. A splendid combination they got the ball through the Town defence, but Middleton failed hopelessly with his shot. Dolman then drove in a hard drive, Dolman having finely, and when Watmough darted in and shot the goalkeeper turned the ball against the upright, and it came back into play.

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BLACKPOOL were playing finely now, and were right on top, though the Town left wing gave trouble whenever they got the ball, and Martin did good work on the right wing, where Hancock remained apparently to divert attention of defenders, but he was of no practical use otherwise.

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THE VISITORS packed their goal at the slightest sign of danger, and their clearest sign of danger, and there was no truce about their tackling. It was at this stage that the visitors gave a magnificent display of team work, the ball being passed and re-passed with great accuracy, and with better finishing they must have scored several goals. Mackey and Smith did valiant things, especially the former.

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HANCOCK RETIRED, but returned, and on a rush by the Town left wing Blair handled in the penalty area, but the referee took no notice of the appeal and Cardwell cleared an ugly situation. Blackpool attacked again, and Watmough shot over.

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STEPHENSON dribbled finely in conjunction with Roberts, and Martin dodged the ball to Payne, who went in and then, with all the goal to shoot at, sent the ball straight to Wallace, who cleared. Roberts and Stephenson were working like demons now, and giving much trouble to Blair and Farrow.

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WATMOUGH put Blackpool further ahead after a bout of passing which left them with the ball a few yards from goal. Dolman parried the shot, but Watmough regained the ball and made no error the second time. This goal came 28 minutes after the resumption, and it then appeared certain Blackpool would win.

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WITH HANCOCK OUT OF THE WAY, the Town forwards redoubled their efforts,



if that were possible. The forwards held the ball better, and they dribbled so cleverly that the opposition could not stay them. Martin had come over to the left wing, and from Stephenson's pass he shot the ball across goal, and PAYNE who was on the right, met it and crashed it home.

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BETTER WAS TO COME. The Town went at it harder than ever, and the Blackpool defence began to have harder work than ever. After Wallace had saved from Finlayson, the ball was returned by the left wing, and STEPHENSON, keeping it well under control, dodged a couple of men and then shot for the farther corner, the ball glancing in off the post, with Wallace helpless to save.

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TREMENDOUS CHEERING greeted this effort, and the supporters urged the Town to greater efforts, and they responded gallantly. Now and then the visitors broke away, but for the most part they had to concentrate on defence, and there was a lot of kicking out. Stephenson once dribbled past four or five opponents only to be overwhelmed at the finish, and Fellowes shot just too high.

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BLACKPOOL'S LEFT WING made raids, but Hill's centre were blocked, and Nelson failed Finan twice in quick succession. Mackey brought off another wonderful clearance, and Smith set his forwards going with big kicks, and Wallace twice raced out to beat Payne.

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MACKEY AND SMITH came right up, and the former, from just over the half-way line, put in a splendid shot, which Wallace managed to tip over the bar. There was no further incident of note, and the game ended with the teams booked to meet again at Blackpool yesterday.

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THE TOWN DEFENCE was not so safe as usual. Dolman seemed to be on the jumpy side very soon after the start. Mackey played magnificently, and has never been seen to greater advantage. Smith also put up a fine game, and would have done better had he smothered Watmough a bit more. Nelson did not have a good game at all, though he had a clever and incisive inside trio to meet, and they were supported by strong halves. Hancock's mishap meant much. All the forwards did well, and every man pulled his weight for all he was worth and merited praise for the fine recovery.

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LUTON TOWN. — Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hancock, Martin, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

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BLACKPOOL. — Wallace; Witham, Blair; Hall, Cardwell, Farrow; Hill, Jones (T), Finan, Middleton, Watmough.