

LUTON COURAGE EARNS THEM A DRAW

Luton's Late Rally Earned A Replay

Luton 3. Blackpool 3.

LUTON, handicapped by injuries and bad luck, put up the finest battle imaginable at home, against Blackpool, to force a replay.

In the later stages of the game, when apparently well beaten, Luton rallied magnificently, and it was anybody's game to the final whistle.

Luton were having slightly the better of the argument until Hancock received an injury which rendered him practically hors de combat and finally caused his retirement. In addition, Payne, a sick man to start with, received a bump which reduced his effectiveness considerably.

Nevertheless, Payne managed to net twice and nearly won the match with another drive that scraped the cross-bar.

Finan opened Blackpool's account with a fast first-timer. Then Payne equalised from Martin's cleverly-placed free kick.

The Second Division leaders went ahead again through Middleton, and when Watmough added a third, it looked all over for the home side.

Twenty minutes to go, and two goals down against a side like Blackpool, is enough to dishearten the best, but Luton refused to droop their tails.

Then another goal by Payne set them alight to such purpose that, after Stephenson had equalised, a last-minute sensational victory seemed possible.

The game was see-saw most of the time, with Blackpool rather the more polished, but both teams putting in all they knew. Probably Hancock's injury decided the result.

It would be unfair to individualise among twenty-two triers, but a word must be said for Mackey. He was magnificent.

There was a partial boycott of the match owing to increased charges, the three-shilling stand being half empty.

Bravo, Luton!

LATE RALLY BRINGS TWO GOALS

BLACKPOOL'S SKILFUL ATTACK

BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
Luton Town 3 Blackpool 3

A QUARTER of an hour from the finish Luton appeared to be hopelessly beaten. They had lost the assistance of Hancock, injured early in the game, and the score was 3-1 against them.

Then a simple goal by Payne roused Luton. They saw the possibility of saving the game, and they saved it. Half-backs who had been overplayed by an amazingly skilful Blackpool attack found a reserve of energy and a courageous rally was ended by Stephenson scoring with a shot that gave the crowd palpitations before it trickled into the net off a post.

Blackpool first took the lead through Finan, in 23 minutes, and though Payne quickly equalised, it was not long before Luton were again in arrears due to an unusual blunder by Nelson. Right in front of goal, he trapped the ball from Farrow's lobbed free kick, and as he turned to touch it back to the goalkeeper Middleton's rush caused Luton's centre-half to score against his own side.

Roberts and Stephenson nearly equalised before half-time, but after the interval the difference between the teams was transparent. Blackpool, a real team, were brilliantly led by Finan and the wing half-backs linked up with an attack that gave Luton's defence its hardest game for years.

The fact that it took Blackpool half an hour to score their third goal (through Watmough) is eloquent testimony to the sterling work of Mackey and his colleagues. They had a slice of luck when a fierce shot from Watmough hit a post and bounced back to Dolman, standing in the middle of his goal, but Luton deserved a smile from fortune because of their wonderful courage.

Luton's Gamble Comes Off Against Blackpool

ARTISTRY to a great extent was cut out by both teams in this match, although the Blackpool attack frequently weaved their way cleverly in dangerous raiding movements.

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BLACKPOOL .. 3

Nothing better has been seen on the Luton ground this season than the work of Finan and his colleagues, who overcame the difficulties of a heavy ground in an amazing manner.

Blackpool altogether were a happy and confident team, and Luton, persevering as they did to the bitter end, were fortunate to save the game.

Matters went wrong for the southerners,

for although Payne quickly equalised after Finan had given Blackpool the lead, Nelson impeded Dolman to enable Middleton to score easily, and Hancock was so badly injured he was merely a passenger for the remainder of the time.

These misfortunes, however, appeared to inspire Luton, who, even when Watmough increased the Blackpool lead after the interval, played with fine control.

Luton would not admit defeat, and nothing finer can be imagined than their final rally. Two goals down, twenty minutes to go, and Blackpool storming round their goal was Town's plight.

Then Luton wisely gambled everything on attack. The half-backs went up among the four sound forwards, and before Blackpool appeared aware of their danger or the change of tactics Payne and Stephens had scored.