

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 Whatmough 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 !