

BLACKPOOL VANQUISHED ON THEIR OWN GROUND

Thrilling Battle in Which Luton Were The Better Side

GOALS BY SLOAN AND ROBERTS

Half-Backs Redeemed Previous Failure



the other end Walmough missed a couple of chances.
Blackpool were now playing better than at any previous stage. Their forwards were better together.
After 65 minutes Luton took the lead. It was a beautifully worked goal.

LUTON WELL WORTH THE LEAD

Stephenson rushed up to make sure, but the ball was already in the net.
It was a splendid goal and the Town were well worth the lead.

Immediately afterwards Payne brought Wallace to his knees with a great drive. Blackpool were now fighting desperately and Finlayson almost forced his way through.

The game was still in the balance but Luton were playing with the confidence of winners. They had now taken the upper hand again and Hodge tested Wallace with a fine ground shot.
Payne was doing any amount of work from a centre by him Stephenson hit the bar but the whistle had already gone for hands.

MUCH THE MORE IMPRESSIVE SIDE

Hodge was given a clear course but he elected to shoot instead of passing inside.

Luton seemed to have the game in their grip now. They were much the more impressive side.

They contested every inch of the way. Blackpool seemed to have lost heart after Roberts' goal and play was mostly in their half.

Roberts himself was playing grandly and was always opening out the game with nice passes.

The Seaside's made a dash up the field and first T. W. Jones and then Walmough were tackled before they could shoot.

The forwards could make little headway but the home forwards could make no impression on a solid defence.

PENALTY APPEALS IGNORED

The referee wrongly gave a free kick for a foul against Nelson. Hill sent this into the goalmouth, but Fellowes cleared.

There were loud appeals for a penalty for hands against Nelson, but these were ignored.

The Town were slowing now and Blackpool launched a series of assaults, but the Town defence held out heroically. Finlayson made one brilliant tackle on Finan, and Dolman a couple of saves.

The home forwards could make no impression on a solid defence.

Result:—

BLACKPOOL 1

LUTON TOWN 2

CRUSADER'S COMMENTS

Am I elated?

Why?

For weeks I have urged the inclusion of Frank Sloan. On Tuesday night I was talking to Councillor Jeyes, and he asked in his quizzical way, "And who do you think should be on the right wing?"

"Hodge and Sloan," I answered.
While I still think a lot of George Martin it was in my mind that he had a hard game on Saturday, and Sloan had been resting.

Then there was the question of the extreme wing. I thought Hodge's experience and the probability of a better fit with Sloan, would make a heap of difference when playing against the weaker flank of Blackpool's defence.

Yesterday I wrote that we had faith in the Town team, and especially that the half-backs would play better, as they surely did.

The victory yesterday shows clearly that the Town are good enough for any team in the country.

I do not fear Sunderland at all. We have a better side than when we were so unluckily beaten by the Arsenal and if the lads play up to form we should win.

Judicious use of the players during the next ten days so that they will be fit for the fray with the League champions will mean a lot.

LUTON ATHLETIC CLUB

Luton Town achieved one of the greatest performances in the history of the Club yesterday when they went to Blackpool and won the re-play of their Cup-Tie, beating the leaders of the Second Division by the odd goal of three after a hard struggle.

This success ranks with any performance of the team in the long and chequered history, for while there have been in recent years some of the most notable of victories, it is quite certain that none of the previous victima have had a team of the standard of Blackpool's eleven of to-day.

Following the magnificent play of the Blackpool team at Luton on Saturday few of the most ardent supporters of the Town expected that Blackpool would be defeated on their own ground, but it was overlooked to a very great extent that the Town team suffered a severe handicap in the match at Luton by the injury to Hancock.

Yesterday the Town were again at full strength, and their play was of the highest standard, and merited the encomium of every impartial critic who saw the match.

This victory will give great heart to the supporters, and there should be a tremendous crowd to show their appreciation on the Town ground on Saturday when Exeter are the visitors.

The victory means that Luton will entertain Sunderland on Saturday, January 30, in the Fourth Round.

The teams have passed a pleasant couple of days at Cleveleys Hydro. Last night they went to a theatre and finished up by listening to the Lynch-Montana fight.

Tom Smith was fully recovered from the groin injury he received on Saturday and Joe Payne, who has had a cold, found the change of air did him all the good in the world.

TOWN'S NEW RIGHT WING

After long and earnest consideration it was decided to include Hodge at outside right with Sloan as his partner.

Sloan certainly has not had a chance out of his turn. Even so one could be sorry for Martin, for he had all the best luck that was to be had Saturday. The team took the field brimful of confidence.

Blackpool found that Hampson and Sam Jones, both internationals, were fit, and they came in to the exclusion of Middleton and Hall.

Thus the Seaside's were at full strength.

There was a fair number of Luton supporters. About one hundred rose at a very early hour and made the long journey.

Messrs. Chas Jeyes and Horace Hewson came on the train. Thus, only Messrs. S. H. Godfrey and E. Mouse, of the directors, were not present.

There was a deal of rain last night, but in the morning the sun shone brightly. Towards the time of the kick-off the sun went down and a strong, cold wind blew across the pitch.

The pitch was in splendid condition and was just yielding on top. In the middle, however, it looked certain to cut up, but its condition was a pleasant surprise to the Town players.

Sunderland had representatives watching the match, and the Sheffield Wednesday and Barnsley players, who are staying at Cleveleys Hydro, were also among the spectators.

There had not been a Cup replay on the Blackpool ground since West Ham were defeated 3-0 in 1925. That victory left Blackpool one of the last eight teams in the tournament for the first and only time in the club's history.

There was every prospect of a big gate despite counter-attractions at Bolton and Accrington. Because of the odd turn of the turnstiles were clicking merrily.

Referee: C. P. West, Brighton.

Light and dark blue striped shirts, black knickerbockers.

Wallace Blair Witham Farrow Cardwell Jones (F.) Walmough Hampson Jones (W.) Hill Finan

Payne Roberts Sloan Hodge Fellowes Nelson Finlayson Smith Mackey Dolman

Referee: C. P. West, Brighton.

I heard from a "yellow scribe" that Blackpool were at full strength for the first time this season.

It was a real Lancashire crowd, and they cheered quite lustily even before the players came out, presumably to keep themselves warm.

Sellers of megaphones in the Blackpool colours were doing a roaring trade, and the home supporters were evidently expecting something to make a noise about.

TWENTY THOUSAND CROWD

When the teams took the field the crowd was quite 20,000. Nelson and his men, who were the first to make an appearance, had a good reception.

Nelson won the toss, but there was little advantage, as the wind was blowing across the ground. Luton soon made ground. Sloan sent Hodge away, but the winger's centre was cleared by Witham.

Payne next set Hodge on the move, but Witham was there again. A long throw by Farrow gave Hampson a chance of going through, but Nelson brought off a great tackle.

At the other end Roberts took the ball well into the penalty area, but his effort to find Payne was a little too strong.

BLACKPOOL AHEAD IN EIGHT MINUTES

Finan looked dangerous, but Nelson, who was giving early signs of a return to form, charged him off the ball.

A concerted rush by the home forwards brought Finlay within shooting range, but he pushed the ball too far forward.

The Luton forwards were playing splendid football, and Sloan made a delightful little dribble before getting in a shot that just missed the post.

After eight minutes Blackpool opened the score. T. W. Jones found the Town defence wide open with a through pass, and FINAN dashed through to ram the ball past Dolman.

It was a slice of bad luck for the

Town, but the defence certainly lapsed.

Luton retaliated, and Roberts headed in from a Hodge centre, Wallace saving comfortably. Roberts made another effort, only to be floored by Blair.

On the run of the play the Town certainly did not deserve to be behind. They had been playing the better football, and the forwards participated in several delightful movements.

CUT HEAD FOR SLOAN

Roberts sent Hodge away with a beautiful ground pass, and the winger swung the ball into goal, where Cardwell beat Payne.

Sloan cut his head in a collision with a defender, and had to go off for repairs.

Even with a forward short the Town made dangerous attacks. Payne all but beat Wallace for possession of a back pass.

Hodge was receiving plenty of the ball, and went very near when Payne set him going. The winger centred high into the goalmouth, where Wallace punched away as Stephenson rushed in.

Two corners to Luton followed, but nothing came of them.

The Town were playing Second Division football, and were certainly showing the Seaside's a thing about class.

After a spell of Luton pressure Blackpool attacked, and Nelson brought down T. W. Jones on the edge of the penalty area.

Hill took the free kick and hit a wall of defence. The ball bobbed about the goalmouth for some time before it was eventually cleared.

STILL HE GOT THE EQUALISER

Sloan returned after an absence of five minutes. He had a plaster on his head.

A well-judged pass to T. W. Jones gave him a clear course. Nelson conceded a corner, but Dolman cleared at the second attempt.

A flying clearance by Smith foiled Hill who was again dangerous. For a while Blackpool dictated the play.

Luton were soon back on the offensive, and after 25 minutes deservedly equalised.

Stephenson ran into the middle to take a pass from Payne. Finding the way to goal covered he passed the ball out to SLOAN who, with the home defenders appealing for offside, went on and easily slipped the ball past Wallace.

TOWN PUT UP A GREAT DISPLAY

Luton continued to press and there was no doubt that they now held the upper hand. Constant pressure brought a corner from which Fellowes fired in a great drive that topped the bar with Wallace beaten.

The Town were certainly putting up a great display and were having more of the play than Blackpool.

However, the homesters were very dangerous in their breaks away, and the Town defence was often labouring.

The Town forwards were opening out the play admirably, and Blair, Witham, Cardwell and company were working overtime. Wallace saved a long shot from Finlayson, and then punched clear from Roberts and Stephenson.

I think Luton should undoubtedly have had a penalty when Farrow undoubtedly handled in the penalty area, but the referee waved play on.

Clever play by Roberts and Stephenson brought a corner and a melee. Sloan nearly forced his way through, but Blair just cleared his lines.

PAYNE'S DASHES CAUSE ANXIETY

Payne's dashes were causing a none-too-safe defence plenty of anxiety, but the leader had no chances to date.

The Town were playing with grim determination, and refused to be beaten. There was more purpose and forcefulness about their play.

One of Blackpool's sharp attacks almost brought a goal, however, and would have done had it not been for Dolman inside an easy save.

In the next Town attack Sloan put in a long ground shot that troubled Wallace no end.

Hodge was badly fouled and had to receive attention. From the free-kick, taken by Finlayson, Payne headed just over.

The Town defence was giving me some uneasy moments. When the home forwards swung the ball about they always looked dangerous.

Walmough was given an opportunity during one of these raids, but Smith was too quick for him.

For a few minutes Blackpool threatened, but the Town forwards were soon on the move again and gave their opponents' defence little rest.

Half-time:—

BLACKPOOL 1

LUTON TOWN 1

It had been a splendid first half, with the play fast and exciting.

football, and if pressure had counted for anything they would have been well ahead at the interval.

DEFENCE SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN

They fought back splendidly after a bad setback when Blackpool opened the score, and every Luton man was pulling his weight, although the defence was somewhat uncertain at times.

The name was equally true of Blackpool. The ground, which had cut up badly, probably had something to do with this.

The home side's attacks were always loaded with danger, but Luton had been more consistent, although a little more puny at close quarters was desirable.

Hodge and Sloan had proved a lively pair, and were justifying their selection.

The first incident of note after the interval was a free kick just outside the home penalty area for a foul on Sloan. Hodge placed this to Finlayson, whose shot was beaten out.

WITHAM NEARLY GIVES LUTON THE LEAD

Another Luton attack almost brought a goal. Stephenson centred, and Witham, in clearing from Payne, nearly put the ball into his own net.

A corner followed, Roberts heading just wide. Blackpool retaliated smartly, and T. W. Jones, taking a throw-in from Hill, fought off a tackle and drove in a shot that struck the angle of the bar and the upright.

Mackey came to the rescue with a clever intervention when the ball was going to the unmarked Hill.

Mackey was again the means of beating off an attack, but he fouled T. W. Jones about on the penalty line. Farrow took the kick and hit a defender, the ball flying over the bar. From the corner Dolman made a great catch.

Stephenson got in a couple of long runs, but his centres were cleared.

DOLMAN THE MASTER SMOTHERER

Blackpool were now doing more pressing and Dolman brought applause with another clever save.

Following this the Luton goal underwent a bombardment. Mackey dashed across to smother a shot by Finan and there followed a desperate attack by Blackpool during which Dolman, who had come out of goal, smothered three shots in a few seconds.

There was a desperate mixup but the danger was cleared.

Blackpool returned to the attack and Smith nearly turned a centre from Hill into his own net. Luton gained relief and Stephenson made rather a hash of an attempt to pass to Payne.

T. W. Jones was the most dangerous home forward. He was only inches wide with another great drive.

The Town defence weathered the storm. Mackey was again playing out-standingly well.

ROBERTS PUTS THE TOWN UP

Good work by the Town right wing gave Hodge a chance to centre, but Cardwell's head saved the situation. At

"A P