

BLACKPOOL COULD NOT MATCH LUTON FOR PACE

DESPERATE BID TO SAVE GAME FAILS

SPEEDY STEPHENSON

BY OUR SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE

Blackpool 1 Luton Town 2

LUTON TOWN earned the right to meet Sunderland in the fourth round of the F.A. Cup by beating Blackpool at Bloomfield-road—a victory as surprising as it was deserved.

Probably the visitors were fortunate in the manner they obtained their equalising goal, for the ball always seemed to run their way, but there was no doubt that on the day they were the better side, stronger in every department save, perhaps, at half-back.

Their speed was not the least surprising feature of a fine all-round display. Even such a fast side as Blackpool undoubtedly are could not match their pace.

Blackpool made their big effort when it was too late. In the last quarter of an hour they made a desperate bid to save the game, and all but succeeded, but the gallant Luton defenders kept them out.

INJURED—THEN SCORED

Luton's victory was all the more meritorious by reason of the fact that they were a goal down after nine minutes, the result of a brilliant individual effort by Finan.

The equalising goal came after 25 minutes when Sloan, who had just previously been off the field with a head injury, slipped through while the Blackpool players were obviously expecting the whistle to go for offside, and scored easily.

But there was no doubt about the winning goal when midway through the second half Roberts raced over to the inside-right position to take a pass from Hodge and screw the ball into the net from a difficult angle.

DISAPPOINTING FORWARDS

Stephenson was an outstanding figure in the Luton attack by reason of his speedy runs along the left wing, and Payne was always worrying the Blackpool defence. For the most part, however, he found Cardwell his master.

Fellowes was a clever half-back, and Mackey played a magnificent game at right full-back. It was largely due to him that Hill, the Blackpool outside-left and former Arsenal player, was rarely seen in the game.

The forwards were the most disappointing part of the Blackpool team. T. Jones was the best, and Finan tried hard, but Hampson fell away in the second half.

A BLACKPOOL SHOCK

Defeated After Holding Lead

By VULCAN

Blackpool 1 Luton Town ... 2

SECOND DIVISION leaders and Southern Section promotion seekers in the second instalment of a Cup tie left drawn on Saturday—all that was needed to provide a real thriller and a first-class turn-up.

Especially as there was perhaps more incentive to success in this than any of the other three replays—a visit from Sunderland, League champions and England's classiest team, in the next round.

The thrills duly materialised—and so did the customary Cup surprise, in the shape of a win for Luton Town at Bloomfield-road. Turn-up as it was, though, the result was due on merit, for Luton, once they had gained the lead, hung on like grim death until the end.

You would have a job to beat the last quarter of an hour of this game for thrills. With Luton leading 2-1 and 20,000 Blackpool "fans" shrieking their heads off for, at least, an equaliser, the combat ended on a top note of excitement and would, perhaps, help to compensate the partisan for his club's defeat.

INCESSANT ASSAULT

Blackpool stormed the Luton lines in a practically incessant assault for the last 10 minutes. Every man on the side was out to get a goal—and how they tried! They failed—partly through ill-luck; to a great extent because of Luton's great resistance, but more than all that because of their own poor finishing.

There was little or no combined constructive skill about their approach play, and their defence wilted in moments of stress. Individually, though several of their players earned praise, notably, I thought, Finan, who worked hard without the support he needed. He took his goal beautifully, moving quickly forward with a pass from Tom Jones; flicking the ball cleverly past Nelson, and cracking it home with a fine shot from short range as Dolman advanced to meet him.

Hill had a hard but thankless job on the left wing, and Farrow helped him out with passes when not hard pressed. Hampson and Watmough let their side down badly. The international, who displaced Middleton at the last moment, was ponderous in his movements, and on the only occasion when he really threatened to score his wing partner swooped down; took the ball from his toe, and blinded it over the bar. Jones (T. W.) played fairly well, but like the rest was a poor finisher.

The half-back play of Blackpool was never good enough for the job in hand, but Sam Jones returned to do a good deal of useful work, which the forwards wasted. Danny Blair was the better of two "dithery" backs.

GOOD START

Blackpool started off well enough and led Luton a merry dance for the first half-hour. So superior were they in football skill than when Finan scored the first goal in the ninth minute it seemed just a question of "How many?"

Whether they became too confident or not I cannot say but their play fell away from that point, and they were toiling all the while after Sloan had levelled the scores. Roberts crossed the ball from the left wing, and Payne missed it, but Sloan dashed up to shoot swiftly past Wallace. It looked as if he might have been offside, but the referee was well placed to see, and anyway it is asking for trouble to stop dead, as the Blackpool players did, before the whistle is blown.

They crossed over level, and Roberts scored the winning goal about half an hour from the end with a close-range shot from Hodge's forward pass. Stephenson ran up to finish the job off but the ball had crossed the line before he touched it.

Blackpool.—Wallace; Blair, Witham; Farrow, Cardwell, Jones (S.); Watmough, Hampson, Finan, Jones (T. W.), Hill.
Luton Town.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Sloan, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Luton Shock For Blackpool

By KEN ABRAM

Blackpool 1, Luton Town 2.

SUNDERLAND will visit Luton Town in the fourth round, and believe me the prize went to the right team. Those Luton boys ran Blackpool off their feet in the later stages, and though the home side made valiant and desperate attempts to worry their way through the Luton defence never wavered.

Blackpool deserved no more than they got. They had chances galore, but somehow they were miles too slow off the mark, and their shooting was hopeless.

Luton worried Blackpool out of their usual pretty, yet snappy, style. Never was a man allowed to go far with the ball. This rugged tackling absolutely knocked Blackpool off their balance.

HEROIC FIGURE

Nelson, the visiting captain, was an heroic figure. His giant frame could be seen all over the field. He held Finan in a vice-like grip, and the Blackpool leader rarely had a chance to break through.

Others on my honours list were Mackey, the right back, and Dolman in goal.

Luton's halves, while not so constructive as Blackpool's, destroyed Blackpool's attacking moves almost before they started.

Payne was the least noticeable of a gallant Luton attack. Sloan and Hodge formed a grand wing, and those dangerous Hodge centres kept Blackpool guessing.

Roberts, a cunning little player, tricked his way merrily through the game, but generally it was the speed and quick thinking that won the game.

The Blackpool attack rarely got going. They had one bright spell in the first 15 minutes, but later were always struggling against fast and clever opponents.

T. W. Jones and Finan were the hardest workers. Hampson and Watmough were slow off the mark and were easy prey for the rugged Luton men. Cardwell and Sam Jones did great work in defence. So did great-hearted little Danny Blair. He did the work of 10 men.

Blackpool got away to a flying start and inside nine minutes had scored. Hampson pushed the ball through to Jones, who in turn sent it on to Finan. The leader flicked it backwards, beat the defence, and crashed in a grand shot.

Fifteen minutes later Sloan equalised. He was, in my opinion, offside, but Blackpool stood still instead of getting on with the game, and left the Luton man with an open goal.

Twenty minutes after the interval Roberts scored the winning goal. Hodge pushed the ball through and Roberts hit it first time to beat Wallace.

Teams:—
Blackpool.—Wallace; Blair, Witham; Farrow, Cardwell, Jones (S.); Watmough, Hampson, Finan, Jones (T. W.), Hill.
Luton.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Sloan, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.
Referee: C. P. West, Brighton.