

PLUCK OF SLOAN IN CRISIS

HEAD BLEEDING BUT HE PLAYED ON By ERIC THOMPSON

Blackpool1 Luton Town2
(Attendance 17,000)

THERE were times in the replay at Blackpool when the prize of a fourth round tie with Sunderland seemed in Blackpool's grasp. Instead they finished a disappointed and well-beaten side—victims of one of the shocks of the round.

They had taken the lead with a glorious goal by Finan, in the first ten minutes, and then towards the end of the second half, when gallant Luton Town were holding grimly to their advantage, Blackpool pressed with the desperation of a team who had followed set schemes in vain without realising the value of strategy or a change of tactics.

Luton's half-backs and backs challenged so quickly and resolutely that they allowed their opponents no scope for weaving the ball towards goal.

AMAZING ZEAL

Finan usually found two defenders at his side, and only T. W. Jones gave an impressive performance throughout.

Fellows, Nelson, and Finlayson, Luton half-backs, worked with amazing zeal, and Smith and Mackey greatly reduced the danger of Blackpool's wings.

After the quality of Blackpool's first goal the standard of their forward play was disappointing. We were led to expect many more of the artistic touches such as was shown by Finan, when, with his back to the Luton goal, he surprised the defence. As he received a pass by T. W. Jones, he flicked the ball behind

him, swivelled round with it in one smooth movement, and darted between Mackay and Nelson to send a terrific drive past Dolman.

Shortly afterwards Luton's chances appeared to be vanishing when Sloan, the inside right, went off the field with a cut head. He returned six minutes later to score the equalising goal.

Roberts gave him the ball, and as Blackpool's defence hesitated, apparently in anticipation of an offside decision, Sloan went on to beat Wallace.

At this stage particularly the Blackpool defence were not confident in countering the wing attacks of Hodge. There seemed to be rather too much anxiety about covering Payne.

Hodge broke away on the right and sent a short, lobbed centre to Roberts, who beat the goalkeeper from close range, Stephenson following up to ensure that the ball went across the line.

Sloan, during this hectic spell near the end, was constantly sponging blood from his face rather than leave the field for further attention to his head wound.

The fact that he stayed to preserve the team's balance was a big factor in Luton's plucky achievement.

Blackpool.—Wallace; Blair, Witham; Parton, Cardwell, Jones (B.); Watmough, Blayden, Finan, Jones (T. W.), Hill.
Luton Town.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith, Finlayson, Nelson, Fellows; Hodge, Sloan, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.