

PAYNE'S MISTAKES

THREE CHANCES LOST AGAINST PLUCKY DEVON SIDE

LUTON TOWN 2 EXETER CITY 2

LOWLY Exeter City were the first team to take a League point from the Luton ground this season.

They fully deserved to do so, for if they were not on a par with the home team in the matter of skill, they were superior in pluck and stamina, on a ground that was almost ankle-deep in mud.

Luton's failure could largely be attributed to the strange weakness of Payne, their great goal-scorer, in front of goal. On at least three occasions in the first half he had "gifts," but made shocking misses, and even his late equalising goal did not compensate.

Luton went off at a tremendous pace and threatened to swamp the City, but Stephenson was the only scorer in the first half.

BIG GAPS

Big gaps in the Luton defence enabled first Williams and then Owen to score for Exeter, and it was only in the closing stages that Luton found their best, and Payne got a smashing goal to save a point.

There was much shakiness in the Luton defence, and Mackey alone played up to his reputation. The halves appeared to be leg weary, and there was little co-operation in the attack, in which Roberts and Stephenson were best.

The City owed a great deal to Chesters, who made many thrilling saves, Brown at right back, and Bamsey at centre half. In their attack, Williams and Smith were the danger points, both being speedy and hustling the defence at every turn.

BRAVO, EXETER!

PAYNE SAVES LUTON IN LAST TEN MINUTES

Luton Town 2 Exeter City 2

When Payne fails they all fail has come to be a tag at Luton, and although Payne saved a point with a gem of a goal in the closing stages he missed so many easy chances that the result was not less than they deserved. Indeed, so wholeheartedly did Exeter play that for a long stretch of the second half they had Luton very much in Queer Street.

Stephenson had crowned a series of brilliant attacks by a fine goal early on, and at times Luton almost toyed with the opposition. The City, however, stuck it gamely, Chesters and his backs doing big feats, and eventually the home team lapsed into a scrappy and tame lot, with little semblance of unity of effort.

Williams and Owen put Exeter ahead because they found very wide spaces in the Luton defence, and there seemed little likelihood of Luton drawing level again, but they came with a wet sail in the last ten minutes, and Payne levelled the scores after Roberts had paved the way.

Luton could not have complained had they lost; the only players to shine being Mackey, Roberts and Stephenson. There was too much cleverness at times, and hugging the ball closely in the centre of the field where mud was thick was simply playing into the hands of the opposition.

Exeter's spirit enabled them to pick up the first point Luton have lost at home this season, and they were worth it. They won it mainly because of the work of Chesters, his backs and Bamsey, but all the team worked hard and showed more stamina than Luton. Smith was a speedy raider for the City, and Williams was a thrustful centre-forward.

Luton: Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Martin, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Exeter: Chesters; Brown, Boyle; Clarke, Bamsey, Shadwell; Smith, Johnston, Williams, McGill, Owen.

LUTON'S PAYNE WAS OFF THE MARK

Luton 2, Exeter City 2

EXETER CITY'S goal failed to survive a bombardment that raged almost continuously until Stephenson scored after eight minutes. From that point Luton appeared to take matters too lightly altogether against a defence, which fought magnificently, packed the goal, and kicked and tackled desperately.

Really atrocious blunders by Payne, who had many fine chances, gave the City plenty of encouragement, and, while they usually left the attack to centre-forward Williams, and the wingers, Smith and Owen, they made such spirited raids that they were always dangerous.

In the second half they persevered with these tactics, and the result was that the Luton defenders were caught all out of position many times, and the City, with more coolness in front of goal, might have had more than the two scored by Williams and Owen.

In arrears, Luton woke up again, and there were thrilling scenes, in which the City defence never relaxed a moment. They deserved the luck that came their way. However, Payne met a pass hip high from Roberts, and his terrific shot beat Chesters.

More Masterful Side

Heavy going took the steam out of Luton, because they persisted in keeping the ball down in the mud when it should have been lifted to the wings. That they were the more masterful side could not be questioned, but the City were grand fighters.

Chesters was splendid, and Brown, Boyle and Bamsey fought manfully with the assistance of their halves and inside forwards. Williams and Smith were the pick of the forwards.

For Luton, Mackey was again the outstanding defender, and the halves had a rather poor time, while of the forwards Roberts and Stephenson were unfortunate in seeing so much good work come to nothing through the failing of their colleagues.

Luton.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Martin, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Exeter.—Chesters; Brown, Boyle; Clarke, Bamsey, Shadwell; Smith, Johnston, Williams, McGill, Owen.