

Sunderland's Cup Story

Chat
By
Crusader

LUTON EXPECTS THE TOWN'S GREATEST VICTORY

The Slip With Exeter

SUNDERLAND have a wonderful record, but in all their fifty-six years they have never won the F.A. Cup.

There is a good excuse, therefore, for their hope or assumption that this will be their Cup year. Undoubtedly they have a magnificent team, worthy of the League Championship which was won last season, and for the retention of which they may be regarded as worthy candidates.

It would give the Club greater joy, however, to win the F.A. Cup. Five times they have won the League Championship, five times been runners-up, and seven times third, but the "blue riband" has evaded them.

IN THE FINAL

ONCE they reached the final, but that was as long ago as 1913, when they were beaten by Aston Villa by the only goal of the match.

Five times they have been in the semi-final, but four of those occasions were before the war, the only other time being in 1930-31, when, as the list below shows, they had a hectic passage before they were beaten by Birmingham.

"TEAM OF ALL THE TALENTS"

SUNDERLAND in the old days were known as "The team of all the talents," and it was while still enjoying that title that they met Luton in 1907 and just scrambled through on a replay by the only goal of the match.

The club was launched in 1880 by a group of schoolmasters, and within a few years had imported a number of Scottish players.

In 1891-92 and 1892-93 they carried off the League Championship, and it was then they earned the title of "The team of all the talents."

Many famous Internationals of England and Scotland have worn the famous red and white striped shirt, and at the present time their team holds a strong sprinkling of International players.

again when they went to Blackpool for there play, I feel they will win.

That is the spirit of the players, of the manager, the directors and the supporters.

May we all have reason for rejoicing on Saturday night.

ALL TICKETS READY

NEVER in all the years I have been concerned with the Town have I had so many application to obtain tickets for a match, and I am very sorry to say that it has been impossible for me to do anything more than the officials of the Town Club are prepared to do for supporters.

On such occasions someone is sure to be unlucky, whatever is done, and however unfortunate that may be there are hard cases.

It is always best for supporters to take steps immediately and not to leave to others the responsibility of securing tickets.

As far as I can see, there will be record receipts, though I do not think there will be a record attendance.

LUTON WERE WATCHED!

THE Sunderland F.C. manager, Mr. J. Cochrane, saw them in action against Exeter City on Saturday and, beyond his "I think we will win," would not say anything for publication about the Wearsiders' opponents in the fourth round of the F.A. Cup.—North Mail.

SUNDERLAND CAUTIOUS

"I AM not going to underestimate the difficulties of the task which confront Sunderland at Luton," says Argus in the "Sunderland Echo," "and I am pretty certain that the players themselves will not under-estimate a team which can win a replay at Blackpool and which had, until last week, a 100 per cent. home League record—even though they are two grades below Sunderland in football status.

"It has to be remembered that the majority of the clubs in the Southern section are equal to most clubs in the Second Division. Most of them were members of the old Southern League and they are a different proposition to the Third Northern.

"I am told—I shall probably learn more of them while in the South this week-end—that Luton play football. That is good news, for I am never nervous of a side that plays football against Sunderland and if Luton can play class stuff we may see another Everton—Sunderland quality tie; that is asking for something. Candidly, in spite of incurring the wrath of the old stagers, that was one of the greatest classics ever, and we may never see the like of it in our day."

THE GAME WITH EXETER

SATURDAY'S game with Exeter was a poor prelude to the visit of the League champions for the Cup-tie.

Naturally there were many excuses for the Town's poor show, but I think the main error was that they took the visitors too lightly, and that the missing of a few chances in the first half was nothing to worry about.

Exeter's record away from home



JOE NEARLY GOT THE BALL.—But not quite, in this tussle with the Exeter right back in the match at Luton. Exeter drew with Luton 2—2.

deserved better respect, and although the Town were the superior side in general ability, the determination and grit of the visitors merited equality at the finish.

It is just as bad to have a superiority complex as an inferiority complex if one cannot make the best of it, and the Town certainly failed to consummate their obvious superiority as evinced in the early stages.

CITY'S WISDOM

CONDITIONS were very difficult, and perhaps it was a wise move of the City to bring into their team five men who had not played on the Wednesday. They lent the team just that little freshness that was lacking in the Town side. True, Martin and Dawes had not played on Wednesday, but the visitors' reinforcements were in defence, where they were most needed.

Whether the old stagers laugh or not at the aspect of some of the clubs in regard to the employment of a psychologist, there is something to be said for it.

The Town players needed more assurance and more resolution on Saturday against Exeter, or they showed the need for it more than I hope will be the case against Sunderland.

DEFENCE LEFT GAPS

THE thing I most disliked about the Town's play was the manner in which the Town defence left big gaps for the visitors to break through if they could get the long pass, as they often did, and I fear we shall always be giving goals away to the opposition until this bad fault is remedied.

Tom Smith was the worst offender, for he was up against a clever sprinter, who had simply to put the ball past him and run for it; had Smith kept within a few yards of his namesake all the time and pounced before he had the ball under control Exeter would not have had two goals.

Still, I am not blaming Tom Smith for the loss of a point; there were others even more to blame, notably Payne, but after all we have done remarkably well to get the hundred per cent. points for home games during such a long period. The lapse on Saturday, just as in the case of the first game with Blackpool, may have done the players good, and they will probably play all the better against Sunderland.

MR. EDWARD MOUSE

MR. E. MOUSE, the Town director, is still in the Bute Nursing Home, and

likely to be there for another week or two, although the operations he has undergone have been successful.

It is now a question of regaining strength, and that may be rather slow, but he is still as keenly anxious as ever about the Town, and it will be a tremendous tonic to him if he can hear on Saturday afternoon that they have pulled it off against Sunderland.

COUNCILLOR JEYES BEREAVED

MR. CHARLES JEYES, the chairman of Luton Town F.C., sustained a loss that distressed him greatly this week. Miss Jeyes, his only sister, had a tragic fall a fortnight ago and fractured her spine. She passed away in Northampton Hospital on Sunday night.

MR. WALLY SOPER'S DEATH

BY the death of Mr. Wally Soper, Luton Town Football Club lost a staunch supporter who rarely missed a game. Mr. Soper, who was seventy-one on Christmas Day, had been ailing for some months, and was a genial soul with a bright word for everybody. Mr. Soper became a director of the Town Club in 1904, and remained for twenty years, and after leaving the Board he continued to show his interest, and frequently had an outing with the team.

In his early days it was often necessary for the directors to guarantee the wages, and often to actually loan the wages of players to the Club, and many a jest Mr. Soper had in these later and more prosperous years about the efforts to find money.

He will be much missed by his old friends.

SATISFIED

Crusader.—After last week's letter, in which I roasted both you and the directors of the Football Club, the win by the team at Blackpool has softened my grouse.

Your "Sports Chat" explained fully your views on the game, and also concerning the Lane Stand admission prices.

The directors have made a real diplomatic move in the price of this stand for the Sunderland game, and I consider it will meet with approval from all regular supporters.

Hoping the "Hatters" go into the hat again.

"EVERY WEEK SUPPORTER."

REPLIES

A.T.E.—On March 23, 1935, Luton Town visited Watford, and the result was a draw 2—2. Ball scored both goals for Luton.

HAROAN.—It is a matter of opinion which is the better. Each has had a fair chance according to his play in previous games.