

# Precious Point Dropped at Home

## Luton Town Fail to Overcome Exeter City

### LAPSE AFTER BRILLIANT OPENING

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN ..... 2  
Martin, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.  
EXETER CITY ..... 2  
Williams, Owen.  
LUTON:—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Clarke, Bamsey, Shadwell; Smith; Johnson, Williams, McGill, Owen.  
Referee.—W. P. Harper, Stourbridge.

Luton Town should have won this game in the first half. They were the better side altogether from the aspect of craft and individual efficiency, but they missed chances as light-heartedly as though they were playing the proverbial blind school.

The more they missed the more the opponents were encouraged, so that in the later periods the spirit of the visitors was almost the deciding factor of the game.

Exeter deserved their point because they refused to accept the idea that the opposition was unbeatable. They began in fighting fashion, and so they finished, and by that admirable spirit they wore down the Town until at times the latter looked worse than commonplace.

#### CLEAN GAME

I do not know that there is much that I can say about the City's performance other than their never-say-die disposition, and the clean and wholesome game they put up. The only dirty thing about was the mud.

Desperately though the game was contested there were few infringements by either side, and the match was very different to some of the old tussles the Town have had with the men from Devon.

The City, however, adopted an astute arrangement, and it was not the 'V' formation at all. Their inside wingers were playing half-back for three-fourths of the game; there were only three forwards, but the arrangement drew the Town defenders too far up the field; there was a heavy crack at the ball, and the Town defenders were unable to give a start at all to the City's three forwards, who were very fast when in possession.

#### COULD HARDLY GALLOP

Again and again the Town defenders were caught on the centre-line as a ball came high over their heads, and either Williams or one of the extreme wingers tore through at breakneck speed. Had these three kept their heads well they might well have won the match, especially in the second half, when some of the Town players could hardly raise a gallop.

The Blackpool effort had taken a lot out of several of the Town players, and Exeter had wisely introduced several players who had been resting during the week, and this also was an important factor in the game, for these players were fresh when others were worn and weary, and they lent to their ranks just that tonic that was needed.

#### PAYNE'S MISSES

For a quarter of an hour it appeared as though the City were destined to suffer a sorry lacing, but the grand play of Chesters and the courageous opposition offered by his colleagues to the Town attack, added to which was the very bad misses by Payne, altered the tenure of the game.

Had Payne been as efficient as usual in front of goal the game would have been won at half-time, but he wasn't, and therefore it was but a precarious lead the Town held at the change-over.

The goal that was scored was largely due to the unorthodox Stephenson. First he collared a loose ball and raced over from the left wing to the extreme right, and there after he had been dispossessed he made a tackle that stopped an opponent. From the throw-in the ball was swung over to the left wing, where Payne had taken Stephenson's place, and the latter centred right across goal for STEPHENSON to rush in and head into the net.

#### A DOZEN ESCAPES

Before this, however, there had been a dozen very narrow escapes for the City goal, and probably the best shot of the match was made by Mackey, who raced up to the edge of the penalty area, and then put all his might behind a shot; it looked a goal all the way, but Chesters anticipated grandly, and flung himself sideways to divert the ball. Fellowes had also put in a fine shot which the goalkeeper tipped over. Dawes had missed two or three times by inches.

The City's raids usually found the Town defenders outpaced.

Once Williams went right through, but Dolman came out and got in the way of the City leader's drive, the ball rebounding up the field when a goal seemed assured. Payne made really shocking misses, though one characteristic shot was brilliantly saved by Chesters, and the City goalkeeper was the man to take the honours in the first half.

#### ALL SQUARE

The Town restarted with a hot assault and the City goal narrowly escaped, but the visitors then went away, and WILLIAMS galloped through unchecked to accept a centre from Smith; his first effort struck the bar, and Dolman apparently thought the ball was going over, but it dropped in the mud on the goal line, and Williams was there before the goalkeeper knew what had happened, and the ball was in the net.

After this the Town degenerated, and although they did the more pressing, and had more of the ball, the visitors were now on their toes as much as ever, and they ploughed through the mud

gallantly, tackling and kicking strongly, and making the ball do some of the work, which was all to the good since the ground was now like fallow field.

#### OH OWEN!

During one of the City raids Owen made a bad miss, although he hit the post, and there was a fierce scramble on the Town goal-line; several players strove hard to kick it clear, but Dolman was in the way, prone in the mud, and it was through his courage that the goal was saved.

Several corners were forced by the Town, and Chesters saved splendidly often, but the Town attack was not working with any sound method of combination, and the tendency to dribble into the mud instead of keeping the ball out on the wings was the undoing of many efforts, and gave the City defenders plenty of time to recover after once being beaten.

#### AND AGAIN OWEN

Always when they got away the City's three attackers were dangerous, notably the right winger, Smith. He could give Tom Smith a start and beat him every time by shoving the ball past him and sprinting for it. He paved the way for the City's lead, when he sprinted clear and then turned the ball across to OWEN, who ran in and after his first shot had struck Dolman's feet he pushed the ball into the net.

The Town then re-asserted supremacy, and one or other player got clear.

Hodge once dribbled past half a dozen, but at the finish he had not the strength to tap the ball clear of Chesters. Stephenson worked like a Trojan to

square matters, and narrowly failed two or three times.

Roberts then made a dash into the goal area and from his pass PAYNE met the ball first time and it was in the net and out again like a flash, Chesters being helpless.

The City right wing came near winning the match again, but the Town made the more determined efforts in the closing stages, Stephenson especially being dangerous, but the City defence held out to the end.

#### DEFENSIVE FAULTS

I thought Dolman should have prevented Williams' goal, but he made several very good saves when least expected, and it was not his fault that the Town failed to take both points. Nor was it Mackey's, who, in spite of the manner in which Owen beat him two or three times, was the best of the defenders. Smith again left the opposing winger too much room to work, and it was this that led to the City's second goal.

The City's right winger is a youngster who made his first League appearance against the Town at Exeter last season. He is a well known sprinter in the West Country, and once he was able to get the ball past Tom Smith the odds were always on him.

He is a promising player, and in a class side he would go a long way. The only way to beat him was to be close enough to tackle before he got the ball under control, and the Town left back failed to appreciate that.

Nelson played like a wearied man, and it would probably have been better to have rested him after Wednesday's grueling. Williams managed all too often to get on his blind side. Fellowes played hard all through the piece, and so did Martin, though slow in recovery.

#### FORWARDS

Dawes began well, but did not maintain his standard, and the same may be said of Hodge. Payne was often doing clever little things, but in the principal feature, shooting, he had an off day. Roberts and Stephenson shared the honours forward, both playing well, and Stephenson made tremendous efforts to win the game in the closing stages.

Exeter owed much to their clever goalkeeper, while Brown, the old Watford back, played magnificently throughout, and Boyle also was a dour defender. Bamsey is a very useful pivot, and Clarke worked hard all the time, while in the attack Williams revealed merit as a leader, and both Smith and Owen were good.

Attendance: 10,003; receipts: £569 10s. 6d.