

LUTON HOLD THE CHAMPIONS

SUNDERLAND HAVE ALL THE LUCK IN CUP-TIE

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN gave one of the finest displays it has been my privilege to see during the years since the war when they entertained **SUNDERLAND** on Saturday in the fourth round of the F.A. Cup competition.

With nearly a thousand followers to cheer them on, and almost every critic in the country telling the world that Sunderland could not lose, the visitors looked a badly beaten side when the game was half-an-hour old.

TWO GOALS DOWN, their defence was being almost over-run, and the Town played magnificently, but there was a different story in the second half. Still, Sunderland only asserted superiority at intervals, and again in the closing stages they were fortunate to see their goal escape during fierce attacks.

BEFORE A DENSELY-PACKED CROWD, on a frost-bitten ground, the Town started their heavy task with rare dash and abandon, and the Sunderland forwards were not often in the picture. The home halves dictated the course of the game, and the forwards carried on the work splendidly.

MAPSON MADE BRILLIANT SAVES from Roberts, Sloan and Payne, and time and again the visiting defenders were forced to kick the ball anywhere to relieve their lines. Dolman had to save once from Connor, but there was nothing difficult about it, and the visiting inside forwards were dispossessed with remarkable ease by the Town halves and backs.

THE PRESSURE had its reward after twenty-five minutes' play, when **ROBERTS** snapped up a pass from the right, raced between the backs, and then shot into the net as Mapson advanced.

AFTER A BRIEF ATTACK by the visitors, in which they forced a couple of corners, Luton were at it again, and **ROBERTS** scored a second goal in much the same way as the first had come, the Sunderland defenders being drawn right out of position.

LUTON DOMINATED the exchanges,

DESERVES WIN AGAIN

and Payne again tested Mapson, and then provided Hodge with the easiest chance of the game, but with all the goal to shoot at, the outside right saw his shot hit the goalkeeper's legs and rebound.

JUST BEFORE THE INTERVAL the Sunderland right wing got away, and a hard drive by Duns was turned behind by Dolman. Stephenson and Roberts, with the assistance of Fellowes, constantly menaced the Sunderland goal, and twice came near increasing the lead, but the interval came without further score.

THE TOWN MAINTAINED the upper hand after change of ends, and after a nice bit of combination by the visitors had been thwarted, Payne dashed through again, but he shot too soon when he might have taken the ball almost up to the goal, and Mapson saved.

THEN THE VISITING GOAL had a marvellous escape, for Roberts and Stephenson worked up an assault, and following a corner a shot hit Mapson, and Gorman kept the ball out when it looked like crossing the goal-line.

SUNDERLAND then broke away, and Nelson was drawn out to the right wing by Gurney, who got the ball across, and **CONNOR** raced into the centre and beat Dolman with a low drive that went in off the upright.

LUTON NEARLY RESTORED the lead within a minute, for Payne went clean through the defence and was within a yard of goal when he failed to control the ball and was robbed.

FOLLOWING THIS the Town defence had to work hard to keep out the visitors, who showed great improvement, although their inside forwards rarely found an opening for a shot. However, the equaliser came through a bad blunder by Dolman.

CONNOR MANAGED to get in a square centre from the goal-line, and Dolman appeared to have the ball safely in his arms, but he failed to get it properly, and then slapped it with his hands, and it went straight to **DUNS**, who shot into the net to equalise.

SUNDERLAND FORCED THE PACE



FRED ROBERTS

steadily for a time, but were driven off again, and the Town began to assert supremacy once more. In the closing stages there were hot attacks, Roberts and Stephenson being prominent, and Payne was always working desperately to get a goal.

JUST BEFORE THE END Roberts dashed through and turned the ball in front for Payne to shoot first time, but when a goal seemed certain the ball struck the upright and went behind, and so Sunderland escaped to get a replay they did not deserve.

THE TOWN DEFENCE has never been better save for the mistake of Dolman, which was fatal. He had little to do, so well did Mackey, Smith and Nelson cramp and thwart the visiting forwards. All three played magnificently throughout, and Finlayson and Fellowes were splendid supports for their forwards.

OF THE ATTACK, Hodge did some clever things, but was too casual in his work at times, and he made the miss of the match. Payne was a grand leader, always too much for Johnson, in spite of the manner in which the latter stuck to him, and Sloan and Roberts were the best forwards on the field. Stephenson also did finely, and the line compared more than favourably with that of the famous First Division side.

LUTON TOWN 2
Roberts (2).

SUNDERLAND 2
Connor, Duns.

LUTON.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Sloan, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

SUNDERLAND.—Mapson; Gorman, Hall; Thomson, Johnson, McNab; Duns, Carter, Gurney, Gallacher, Connor.
Referee.—J. H. Whittle, Worcester.