



Roberts.

Luton Make Slips, Let Champions Escape

By F. D. BRICK (Sports Editor)

Luton 2, Sunderland 2

FOG in the air, an icy ground, and Sunderland players in another sort of fog for the first hour of the game. True, they recovered in the second half to get a draw. When the ground

had turned to mud, the League champions played well enough to get themselves out of the mud that might be slung at them for a defeat by a Third Division team.

Though, really, no team need feel disgraced by a beating at Luton, a team among the Cup-tie giant-killers.

Luton's two-goal lead at the interval should have been more—three at least.

Hodge missed one glorious chance. Only Mapson to beat. He hesitated, and as Mapson came out, kicked the ball tamely against the goalie's legs. I believe Hodge thought he was offside—as others did—but it's folly not to play to the whistle.

Not merely were Luton more at home in the conditions and playing with more zest—they actually in this period played much better football than the champions.

Sunderland Gaps

Sunderland's defence was not impressive against the fast and skilful moves of the home left wing and the deft flicks of Payne, and at times looked about as stable as a snow man.

There was a bad gap in the defence when the ball came over from the right, and Roberts headed the first goal.

Then another to Roberts, and also a pile-driver superbly saved by Mapson.

Little was seen of Sunderland in this half, but Johnston, who had the unenviable job of watching Payne and also going to his colleagues' assistance, would probably tell you that it was quite a hot day.

Sunderland played like a different team in the second half, and, spurred on by a goal from Connor after fourteen minutes, at last got a grip on the game.

Their short passing made the Luton defence anxious, and a second goal came when Connor hooked over a high ball from the goal-line.

Dolman might have caught the ball, but he pushed it away, and Duns, with no one near him, had plenty of time to score.

Final thrill with a minute to go. Hodge got away, and his shot hit a defender and came back to Payne, who blazed it only inches past the post.

Nelson, Payne, Roberts and Stephenson did fine work for Luton. Sunderland left wing was the more dangerous, and Johnston and Hall worked like lions in the defence.