

LUTON'S FIRST HOME DEFEAT IN LEAGUE GAME

AMATEUR SCORES ONLY GOAL OF THE MATCH

(BY CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN fell at home for the first time this season in a League game. They did not deserve to do so, for they were immensely superior to QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS in everything but pluck and perseverance. These characteristics pulled the Rangers through, for they must have been defending for seventy-five of the ninety minutes.

APART FROM A PERIOD in the first half, which lasted seven or eight minutes, the Rangers were fighting with their backs to the wall, and how their goal escaped sometimes none could tell intelligently, although in the main it was simply because the players refused to be beaten; they sacrificed trills for workmanship, and that ultimately earned the full reward.

FROM THE OUTSET Luton were the more aggressive, and with better finishing they must have had a long lead before the interval in spite of the splendid



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exhibition by Mason, the Rangers' custodian. Dawes, especially, was at fault on two or three occasions when he was right through, but could not aim straight.

CENTRES by Rich and Stephenson were collared cleverly by the goalkeeper, and whenever there was a concerted rush by the home forwards, the Rangers' defenders packed their goal and fought desperately to keep the ball out of the net.

THE RANGERS, however, were ever dangerous in their raids, and the only goal of the game was scored after thirty minutes' play. McMahon got a clear run and pushed the ball forward to Charlton, who was flagged offside, but the referee ignored the flag, and CHARLTON went on to wind up with a grand shot that had Dolman beaten from the moment it left Charlton's boot.

MASSED ASSAULTS by the Town players frequently brought them within an ace of scoring; again and again they were right in the Rangers' goal area, and they forced a lot of corners, while Mason made daring and skilful saves, and at the interval the visitors held their lead.

THE SECOND HALF saw even more strenuous attacks on the Rangers' goal. Time after time the Town players worked the ball almost under the bar, but they simply could not find the effective shot, nor could they force a way past the solid barrier presented by the Rangers' defence. The goal was thick with players time after time.

MARKSMANSHIP on the Town side was poor, largely because the forwards allowed themselves to be tackled before they parted with the ball, and there was a tendency to hang on to it when swinging passes were needed. All the forwards and halves, and sometimes the backs, joined in the assaults, but to no purpose.

FROM A CORNER KICK the ball and several players were rushed into the net, but the applause was cut off suddenly by the referee awarding a free kick to the Rangers.

NOW AND THEN the visitors raided and tested Dolman severely, but he was safe enough, and for the most part it was a prolonged struggle between the Rangers' defence and the Town attack, and the former prevailed.

THE TOWN DEFENDERS played well to a man. Lutterloch and Fellowes each improved after a rather poor opening half. Roberts and Stephenson were the best forwards. Payne did not shoot so readily as usual, although playing very hard all the time. Dawes worked hard without success, and Rich, was not at his best by a long way.

FOR THE RANGERS, Mason was the star man in a defence that worked at top pressure all the time. Every back was a last-line defender, and the inside forwards also gave much assistance in that way. Charlton and McMahon were dangerous raiders, but there was not much seen of the Rangers' attack for long periods.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS .. 1
W Charlton
LUTON TOWN 0
LUTON.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith;
Lutterloch, Nelson, Fellowes; Rich, Dawes,
Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.
RANGERS.—Mason (W); Barrie, Rowe;
March, Farmer, Moralee; Lumsden, Lowe,
W Charlton, Fitzgerald, McMahon.
Referee.—C E Argent, St. Albans.

chances. On the other hand, but for the splendid form of Coen the margin against them might have been much greater.

THE GOALKEEPER SAVED ALL MANNER OF SHOTS, and he had no possible chance with the two that passed him. He was well covered by his backs, Booton and Hubbard, and the former had an exceptionally good match. It was not often that he was beaten, and he kicked and tackled accurately. Hubbard, although troubled by the speed of Cameron, was very safe, and made few mistakes.

BOTH THE NEWCOMERS, CHILDS AND HALL, showed themselves to be more than useful. In fact, Hall was outstanding, and he broke up attack after attack by stern tackling. He distributed the ball finely, and found his wings with low passes. Childs, too, performed creditably, and he possesses all the attributes of the complete wing-half. He received a buffeting, but stuck to his task grimly, and came out with flying colours. Kidd played a grand game, and was full of resource and determination.

APART FROM BALL, THE FORWARDS WERE WEAK. The centre-forward was the only member of the line who ever seemed likely to score, and he fully deserved his goal for his pertinacity. In vain he tried to get his colleagues moving, and many chances were missed. Hogg found his slight build a handicap against the robust home defenders, and he could do little. Mills was always working hard, but none of it was attended with much success, and some of his shooting was atrocious.

HANCOCK APPEARED TO BE FEELING SOME EFFECTS OF HIS INJURY, and he was not in his best form. To this must be added that he spoilt movements by taking the ball directly across the field instead of going on down the wing. Hosier showed speed at times, but centred badly, and was aimless in much of his play.

THE RANGERS HAD THE WIND IN THEIR FAVOUR, and they were soon attacking. They should have taken the lead in the first few minutes, and following this, Coen was kept fully employed. The Town's attacks were not particularly dangerous, but Ball was unlucky to see his shot strike Mason's foot when it seemed booked for the net. Booton saved a certain goal when he dashed across to rob Cameron, but the Rangers' pressure was rewarded just before the interval, when SWINFEN found the net following a corner.

ON THE RESUMPTION THE RANGERS TOOK COMMAND, and Luton were forced to defend for long periods. Hubbard once kicked off the goal-line with Coen beaten, and the goalkeeper had to save in quick succession from Cameron, Crawford and Swinfen. The Town broke away, and Hancock should have made more use of a good pass than he did. For a while play was kept at the other end, but the Rangers came again, and CAMERON cut in to beat Coen with a grand shot. Luton gained their only goal a few minutes from the end, when BALL netted following a corner taken by Hancock.

QUEEN'S PARK RGRS. RES 2
Swinfen, Cameron
LUTON TOWN RES 1
Ball.
QUEEN'S P.R.—Mason (J); Abel, Carr,
Allan, G Lawrence, Vincent; Cameron,
Clark, Swinfen, Ballantyne, Crawford.
LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Booton, Hub-
bard; Childs, Hall, Kidd; Hancock, Mills.
Ball, Hogg, Hosier.
Referee: D W McKenzie, Essex.