

LUTON MASTER WATFORD AGAIN

GREAT FOOTBALL BRINGS INVALUABLE POINTS

(By CHILTERN)

WATFORD 1
Fletcher
LUTON TOWN 3
Payne, Dawes, Roberts

WATFORD.—McLaren; O'Brien, Woodward; Morgan, Armstrong, Reed; Jones, Barnett, Fletcher, Davies (W), Hurst.

LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hancock, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee.—I. H. W. Wright, Derby.

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A record crowd of 27,461 saw LUTON TOWN humble WATFORD on their own enclosure, and once more establish themselves as first favourites for promotion. The match had all the attributes of a typical "Derby" match, but the most pleasing thing about it was the clean way in which the exchanges were contested. There were no really vicious fouls, and the task of the referee was made easy by the sporting spirit of both teams.

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IT WAS A GREAT TUSSLE, with Luton's extra skill and better team work turning the scales in their favour. Watford opened like world beaters, but seemed to run themselves out, and were a well-beaten team long before the end. The Town simply wore them down, and the issue was never really in much doubt. It is true that Watford were the more impressive in the early stages, and if they had scored first it would have been no more than their due.

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HOWEVER, THE TOWN were the first to score, PAYNE being the marksman. The goal came from a corner beautifully placed by Stephenson, and Payne, who had manoeuvred himself into an unmarked position, nodded the ball past McLaren. The home side quickly returned

the Town forwards indulged in some exhibition football.

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IT WAS A MAGNIFICENT DISPLAY, and the Town played some real promotion football. The defence was as solid as ever, and the home forwards must have been former players with the fine enthusiasm tired of battering against a human wall. Mackey and Nelson took the chief honours. Each was a master, and the he has shown all this season. He refused to be beaten, and his stern tackling was always too much for Hurst. Nelson held Fletcher in a vice-like grip, and the way down the middle was effectively blocked.

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THE OTHERS WERE VERY LITTLE BEHIND THEM, and Smith rarely made a mistake, though Jones was sometimes a little troublesome. He kicked splendidly, and was always in position. Finlayson and Fellowes were always breaking up attacks, and were hard at it from start to finish. Both put in a tremendous amount of work, and never gave the home forwards any unnecessary room. Dolman could not be faulted, and his handling was very safe.

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THE FORWARDS WERE A VIRILE SET, with Payne again leading the line in grand fashion. He was always linking up with his wings and inside men, and chasing the ball all over the field. He worked untiringly from start to finish, and Woodward could never hold him. Hancock, too, played wonderfully well, and his pluck was good to see. He always had the beating of Woodward, and found Dawes an ideal partner. The left wing, as usual, scintillated, and Roberts was a great forager and schemer. Stephenson did not find O'Brien too difficult to evade, and with Roberts, made some thrilling runs.

How They Stand

DIVISION III. (SOUTH)

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
Brighton	30	18	8	4	52	29	40
Notts County	30	15	6	9	53	41	39
LUTON TOWN	28	17	8	3	64	36	37
Watford	30	14	8	8	59	40	36
Q.P. Rangers	30	14	9	7	55	33	35
Gillingham	28	14	8	6	40	38	34
Southend Utd.	29	13	9	7	60	44	33
Reading	28	12	7	9	51	39	33
Northampton T. ...	29	14	10	5	57	44	33
Millwall	27	13	8	6	47	32	32
Bournemouth	29	13	11	5	42	43	31
Clapton O.	29	9	9	11	36	37	29
Crystal Palace	30	9	12	9	48	43	27
Swindon Town	29	9	12	8	49	47	26
Bristol City	29	11	14	4	49	54	26
Bristol Rovers	29	12	15	2	48	53	26
Torquay Utd.	30	9	14	7	41	56	25
Cardiff City	28	9	13	6	35	59	24
Newport County ...	29	6	15	8	46	72	20
Walsall	28	6	15	7	31	60	19
Exeter City	28	5	17	6	32	67	16
Aldershot	29	4	18	7	32	60	15



HANCOCK

to the attack, and FLETCHER equalised a minute later with a quick drive, following clever work by Barnett. The home side continued to have rather more of the play, but their work in front of goal was very weak.

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THE TOWN WERE ALWAYS THE MORE DANGEROUS, and a grand movement brought them another goal. Hancock began it with a run and centre to Payne, who passed the ball out to Stephenson. The winger crossed to DAWES, who running in, hit the ball first time, and beat McLaren easily. After this, though the home side put on plenty off pressure, it was obvious that the Town were the superior side, and that they would last the course better. The defence was right at the peak of its form, and no amount of battering by the home forwards brought about its downfall.

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IN THE SECOND HALF, Luton gave a fine display of constructive football, and ROBERTS made the game absolutely safe with the finest goal of the four. Payne was again in the picture, and he made this goal. He chased a ball on the right, and beating Woodward in his stride, passed inside to Roberts who swept the ball into the corner of the net. Payne could have tried a shot himself, but Roberts was in much the better position. The Town had a goal disallowed when Stephenson crowned a brilliant piece of work by Dawes. Offside was the official decision, but it seemed rather doubtful.

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WATFORD NEVER GAVE UP THE STRUGGLE, but the Town defence never relaxed its grip. Their forwards, too, were most inaccurate in their shooting, and Jones was the only one to be consistently dangerous. They pressed, it is true, but it was mostly negative pressure, and never likely to bring any tangible result. Dolman made one brilliant save, and pulled down many high centres, but the home side had shot their bolt, and