

PAYNE DOES IT AGAIN

LUTON LEADER UPSETS WATFORD RECORD CROWD

By JACK ALLDRIDGE

Watford1 Luton Town3

I TRIED to light my pipe half a dozen times during the first half-hour at Vicarage-road until I had a pile of burnt matches and two scorched fingers; but never a puff from that pipe.

That was the sort of game it was—you daren't take your eyes off the field for a second.

With promotion hopes hanging in the balance both teams tore away at it from the word "Go."

Luton won because they knew all the time what it was they wanted to do; Watford, lacking the forcefulness of a Payne as a leader, were too fond of following out the "well-let's-get-going-and-see-what-happens" idea.

There wasn't a man on the field who could stand up within head and shoulders distance of Payne—certainly not Armstrong, his opposite number.

MONEY'S WORTH

He did what he liked when he liked, and his effortless, but perfectly timed flick of the instep to give the first goal to Luton was worth the price of admission ten times over.

So the record crowd of 27,461, the best since Newcastle came Cup-fighting here in 1924, who paid to press themselves into a human sardine-tin, got their money's worth.

The cool insolence of it must have touched Watford to the quick, for within 30 seconds Fletcher, who played a hard-working if colourless game, had run in Barnett's pass to even things up. But ten minutes later Dawes went through a wide-open defence to put Luton ahead again. Payne gifted Roberts with a third well on in the second half.

Watford got a seven-minutes reprieve when Referee Wright blew for time too soon. But it was no use to them.

Tommy
Clay
Says:

LUTON HAVE NO WEAK LINKS

Watford 1, Luton 3

LOST openings and failure to take advantage of a strong wind in the first half cost Watford two very valuable points at Vicarage-road before the best crowd—27,461—that has ever attended the ground. Only two men in the Watford side—O'Brien (right back) and Barnett (inside right)—reached the standard of the "no weak link" Luton. Promotion spirit evidently gives the Town good starting.

The foundation of Luton's strength lies in their half back line, where Fellowes, Nelson and Finlayson prove a trio that may get beaten for possession, but certainly not for recovery. They feed their forwards and never shirk the slightest bit of defensive work.

In front of these three stars is a quintet of eager, snappy forwards who are led by "ten-goal" Payne, who, if you think can only take a "blind" at the ball you are greatly underestimating. Payne gets goals and makes them too!

Stephenson has speed on the Luton left wing and it was his centre that enabled Payne to chalk up the first goal after Watford had promised so much with pretty dribbling.

Fletcher Scores

That Watford could hit the ball first time was shown immediately after this reverse, for Fletcher equalised from Barnett's pass.

After this it was Luton's game, although Watford always did enough to make it interesting. But, frankly, Payne was too much for the Herts men, and he engineered Dawes's goal fifteen minutes before half-time, and then in the second spell gave Roberts a lob pass and a goal which forwards must dream about.

Luton look strong, and are strong, and on this showing one might be excused if Watford are underestimated. There was a comical end to the game. The referee blew up for time nine minutes too soon. A linesman told the referee about it and they started again—but not to play football as we know it!