

A BLOW FOR BRIGHTON

(BY CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN made another big stride to promotion when they defeated **BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION** on Saturday before a crowd of upwards of 19,000. Excitement was at fever pitch from start to finish, for the game was contested vigorously, and at a surprising pace, considering the heavy state of the ground.

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BRIGHTON, encouraged by a following of nearly a thousand, challenged from the outset, and had slightly the better of the game in the first half. Their methods were to keep three forwards well up the field, and the other two to function almost as extra halves, while the regular halves were usually close at hand to assist the full-backs.

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WITH **LAW** and the wingers showing fine pace and courage, the Town defence had plenty of work, and there were times when the Brighton halves and forwards co-operated magnificently, and many fine passing movements were seen. Dolman was severely tested frequently, and came through with great credit, while both Mackey and Smith played grand defensive football, and Nelson foiled many efforts down the middle.

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PAYNE scored a great goal for Luton nine minutes after the start, Dawes having centred cleverly after being sent through by Finlayson. There were other close calls for Brighton's goal, and Thompson made several good saves, while his backs and Stevens got through an enormous amount of hard work, and never relaxed their vigilance for a moment.

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AT THE OTHER END, Law once had Dolman well beaten with a grand shot which struck the bar, and Stephens might have scored from the rebound had he been careful with his aim. The narrowest shave the Town had, however, was in the last few seconds before the interval, when three Albion forwards were right in front of Luton's goal, and Stephens was aiming when Mackey brought off a glorious rescue at the expense of a corner kick that was never taken.

BRIGHTON RESTARTED the second half with a surprise move which brought the equaliser before the Town defenders were aware of what was happening. Law kicked off to Wilson, and the latter retained the ball until Law had forged ahead, and then he shot it forward for LAW to take on the run and complete the move with a grand shot which gave Dolman no chance.

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THIS WAS A VERY SHREWD MOVE, and gave Brighton new courage, but it was chiefly in defence that they concentrated. Their attack was largely left to Law and the wingers. Payne was crippled during a Luton onslaught, and he had to be assisted from the field, and was absent about twenty minutes.

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DURING THAT TIME both goals had many escapes, Dolman bringing off remarkable saves from Law and Cargill, while Thompson performed valiantly in Brighton's goal. Both custodians dived at the feet of forwards who seemed bound to score, and averted disaster, while the backs on either side tackled tenaciously and kicked powerfully.

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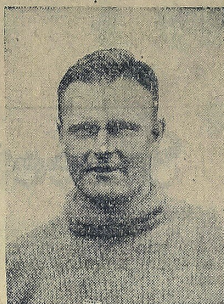
LUTON GRADUALLY drove the Albion back to defend more and more, and both Mackey and Smith made incursions into the Albion half, the latter especially doing good work, while Finlayson and Fellowes were frequently in the firing line.

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PAYNE RETURNED to play at outside-right, and the Town attack was reshuffled, and went into the fray with greater determination than ever. With two minutes to go, Fellowes sent the ball through to STEPHENSON, who had moved into the centre position, and the latter promptly drove in a fierce, low shot which struck a defender's boot and went into the net with Thompson helpless to save.

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PANDEMONIUM broke loose among Luton's followers, but it was hushed suddenly as Brighton broke through almost immediately, and Law netted with another fine shot. The whistle had gone for offside, and the referee's verdict was



DOLMAN

confirmed by the linesman's flag. Actually there were three Albion forwards offside when the move was made.

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FROM THE FREE KICK the Town forwards burst through, and Dawes had wretched luck when his grand drive struck the foot of the post. This was the final incident in a grand struggle.

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IT WOULD BE INVIDIOUS to single out players when all did so well, and every man, Luton and Brighton included, strove his utmost for his side. There were one or two incidents that were not pleasant, but these could be forgiven in the general excitement.

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MR. GOULD handled a difficult game very well, though at times I thought he was too lenient in regard to dangerous play. Probably, however, he took into consideration the tensify of the situation of the two teams, and made allowances accordingly.

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LUTON TOWN 2
Payne, Stephenson
BRIGHTON AND HOVE A. ... 1
Law

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

BRIGHTON.—Thompson; King, Martin; Darling, Stevens, Walker; Farrell, Wilson, Law, Cargill, Stephens.

Referee.—G. T. Gould South Norwood.