

Luton Falter in Promotion Chase

PAYNE WAS MISSED

(BY CHILTERN)

BOURNEMOUTH AND BOSCOMBE 2

Rowley, Whittam, Luton Town 1

BOURNEMOUTH & BOSCOMBE.—Mellors; Marsden, Cooke; Smith, Pincott, Lawrence; Redfern, Whittam, Riley, Chalmers, Rowley.

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

Referee: G. T. Gould, South Norwood.

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FEW PEOPLE IN THE CROWD of 9,000 AT BOSCOMBE on Saturday thought when the teams left the field at half-time that the home side would take both points from Luton. They had just witnessed a first half in which the Town had been superior in all points of the game, and had given an exhibition of real promotion football, except in their work in front of goal.

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THEY HAD HAD NEARLY ALL THE PLAY, and but for bad lapses in finishing, they must have had a lead of at least five goals by the interval. On the run of the play they would have been value for such a lead, but so poor was the marksmanship that they had to be content to leave the field one goal ahead. This was obtained by STEPHENSON after 35 minutes' play. He capped a good movement in which Sloan, Hancock and Roberts took part.

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BOSCOMBE SIMPLY WERE NOT IN THE PICTURE, and their work was moderate to a marked degree. Even when they did improve a little, and were awarded a penalty for hands against Nelson, they could not take advantage of their good fortune. Dolman made a brilliant save from Riley's high shot, and it was the first time he had had to deal with anything serious. Not that Mellors had been at all overworked, for the Town forwards were right off the mark with their shooting.

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IT IS NO USE DISGUIISING THE FACT that without Payne, the Town forward

line does not look likely to bring many goals. The same brilliant approach work is there, but there is no one able to round off the movements, and turn them to advantage. This is what the Town lacked in the first half. Dawes tried hard enough, but his shooting was not his strong suit, and he was well looked after by Pincott.

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AS AGAINST BRIGHTON THE TOWN HAD A GOAL REGISTERED AGAINST THEM in the first minute of the second half, and it came as the result of a tragic mistake by Smith. He had plenty of time to clear, but hesitated, and lost the ball to Whittam, who swung in a centre that ROWLEY headed past Dolman. This goal got the Town badly rattled, and Boscombe made the most of it.

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THAT THEY SHOULD SCORE ANOTHER GOAL three minutes later was certainly a travesty of justice, but there it was, a chance presented itself, and they took it. WHITTAM was again the man who did it, but this time he scored himself. He fastened on to a loose ball on the edge of the penalty area, and shot into the corner of the net. Dolman had no possible chance. The homesters were on top now, and they kept there.

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THEY DID NOT ALLOW THE TOWN TO SETTLE DOWN AGAIN. Luton were always a struggling team afterwards, and they could not get back in their stride. The halves were kept busy in defence, and the forwards had a lean time, though they rarely threatened danger when they did receive the ball. Boscombe always looked the most likely to score, and Mellors had only one shot to save during the second half. Hancock and Dawes had chances of saving the game, and both were off the target with their efforts.

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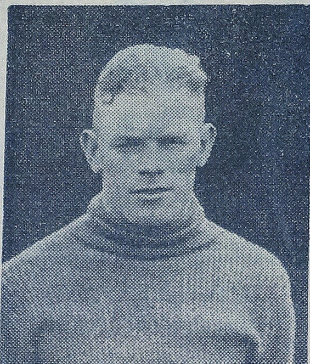
THE FIRST GOAL GAVE BOSCOMBE THE CONFIDENCE THEY NEEDED, and had it not come, they would probably have gone on, content to play second fiddle to Luton's brilliance. As it was they found they could do some attacking on their own account, and they turned the tide when it looked impossible. The wind helped them a great deal in their rally, and it proved a decided handicap to the Town, but that cannot be offered as an excuse for the many chances that were wasted.

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THE TOWN'S SECOND HALF DISPLAY was in vivid contrast to that before the interval, and they were very ragged. Mackey and Fellowes did yeoman service in defence, while Smith was good apart from his one lapse. Finlayson shone most in attack, but he played a useful all round game, while Nelson was better in the first half than in the second when he was bothered by Riley's dash.

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ROBERTS AND STEPHENSON WERE THE PICK OF THE FORWARDS, but even they did not have much opportunity to shine after the interval. The former's shooting was no better than that of his colleagues, but he did some grand work. Dawes, I have already mentioned, and we saw little evidence of his sharpshooting powers. Sloan was very clever in his footwork, but lacked punch, while Hancock was rather weak in his centreing.



GEORGE STEPHENSON