

LUTON MISSED PAYNE AND LOT OF GOALS

S.P. 7/3/37

Bournemouth 2, Luton 1

LUTON forwards at Bournemouth, without Payne to lead them, were like sheep without shepherd, and with nobody who possessed Payne's opportunism in the middle they lost the game by missing their chances.

In the first half, clean, neat approach work by Roberts and Stephenson on left wing got the Bournemouth defence in a tangle, but many chances were missed by Dawes and Sloan.

Hancock should also have given Luton a comfortable lead.

Payne, who accompanied his team to Bournemouth, was nursing a knee injury and was unfit so Dawes led the forward line with Sloan inside right.

Luton's two centre forwards scheme would not work, and the visitors' inability to push their attacks home against the very sound and workmanlike defence of Marsden, Pincott and Cooke, gave Bournemouth heart.

Stephenson, however, gave Luton the lead with a beautifully worked-for goal which started with a centre by Sloan.

This success, after thirty-five minutes, ought to have been Luton's third or fourth goal, but with Bournemouth now putting more into their rather disjointed attack, the game became very open, although Riley missed an opportunity of equalising from a penalty three minutes from half-time.

COOL YOUNGSTER

Bournemouth played much more spiritedly at the opening of the second half, and two quick goals in the first four minutes were sufficient to give them both points.

First Whittam beat Smith when he dallied with a clearance, centred from the goal line to give Rowley the easiest chance of equalising, which this youngster took full opportunity of doing with coolness worthy of a veteran.

Then came Luton's second surprise, for a bout of passing ended with a fine ground shot from Whittam which beat Dolman all the way.

There were subsequent thrills each end, but these two sudden reverses took the sting out of Luton, who lost their artistry. Nelson had a poor game at centre half for the visitors, Riley often beating him.

Bournemouth's two young backs, Cooke and Marsden, played great football, with Pincott holding Dawes easily.