

A GAME TO FORGET

ROUGH PLAY IN LUTON'S MATCH WITH NORTHAMPTON

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN'S match with NORTHAMPTON was the sort of thing that those concerned with clean football would rather forget than recollect. The Town deserved their victory, but it was a desperate affair, and the only satisfaction that was gleaned was the addition of another brace of points for the Town.

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INFRINGEMENTS were common, and after Luton had taken a lead of a couple of goals, play became so rough that the crowd of nearly 20,000 spectators were frequently yelling at the referee to take drastic action against certain players.

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NOT ALL THE BLAME could be attributed to one side, and by no means were all the players of either side responsible. The referee found it necessary, again and again, to administer rebukes, and there were numerous free kicks against each side.

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LATE IN THE SECOND HALF the players were called together in the centre of the field, and a general caution administered. Five minutes later Thayne, the former Luton player, now captain of Northampton, was ordered off the field for bringing down Roberts. Thayne had a good deal of sympathy from the crowd, for many worse offences had escaped even reprimand.

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GOING WAS HEAVY, although the sun shone at the start. Luton made the pace, and after Gormlie had been tested, PAYNE opened the score with a splendid header from a pass by Finlayson. Two mins later ROBERTS headed a second goal, after

Gormlie had punched out from a flag kick.

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ROUGHNESS developed to an extraordinary extent, and several players were in the wars, and eventually Mackey was so badly hurt that he had to go to outside-right, a position he held to the end of the game. Finlayson went to full back and Dawes to right-half, with Hancock inside-right.

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IN SPITE OF THE HANDICAP, Luton rather more than held their own, and Gormlie had more and hotter work than Dolman. Northampton's raids were always dangerous, however, and just before the change of ends, Lyman raced through brilliantly, and from his pass, FELLOWES kicked the ball into his own goal.

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PLAY WAS KEENER than ever in the second half, and Northampton went all out to secure an equaliser, which came as the result of a grand shot by TOLLAND, six minutes after the interval.

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LUTON WENT AHEAD AGAIN when Parris was fouled by Russell, the referee awarding a penalty kick, which PAYNE easily converted. Later, Thayne was ordered off, and during his absence Northampton were awarded a penalty kick, but Tolland shot wide.

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THE GAME WAS REMARKABLE for the fact that the referee allowed the players to carry on for so long without severe punishment. Good football came in spasm, and Luton were the cleverer side in general, but there was so much playing of the man instead of the ball that, as a spectacle, the entertainment was spoilt.



PARRIS

BOTH DOLMAN AND GORMLIE played well, and little fault could be found with either defence. The halves on either side were a bit shaky under pressure, but gave good service in attack.

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FINLAYSON, Smith, Nelson, Dawes, Hancock and Roberts were Luton's best. For the visitors, Gormlie, Russell, Little, Thayne, Lyman and Tolland were the pick.

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LUTON TOWN 3
Payne 2 (1 pen.), Roberts

NORTHAMPTON TOWN 2
Fellowes (o.g.), Tolland

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

NORTHAMPTON TOWN. — Gormlie; Russell, Little; Riches, Thayne, Simpson; Rawlings, Tolland, Allen, Lauderdale, Lyman

Referee.—A. W. Smith, Birmingham.