

Orient Miss Penalty

CONFIDENCE OF LUTON

By FRANK POXON

Clapton Orient ... 0 Luton 2

CLAPTON ORIENT, unbeaten at home since Sept. 10, had to strike their flag yesterday to Luton, and I do not think there could be any suggestion that the result was against the run of the play.

Orient played by no means badly, and there was much in their work to admire, but Luton produced the more polished football, particularly in the second half, when they gradually gained and kept the upper hand. Towards the finish they were playing with real confidence, the half-backs and forwards blending very well.

The points at stake were of more value to Luton than to the Orient, for Luton are well in the running for promotion, whereas the Orient have no such worries.

Even so, they strove very hard, but their best was not quite good enough.

There was plenty of excitement in a game of many fluctuations, but for the most part the defences were superior to the forwards, until the game was well advanced.

Orient should have been in front at the interval, for they had plenty of good scoring chances. Apart from that, Searle failed with a penalty kick given for hands against Fellowes.

Searle's shot was a very feeble one, and Coen had the easiest of tasks to go down to the ball and scrape it away.

The Orient's raids in this half were more frequent than those of Luton, but when the Luton forwards did get going they looked the more dangerous attacking force.

Up to the interval Payne was so well marked by Affleck that he seldom looked like adding to his big bag of goals.

Seven minutes had passed in the second period when Payne put Luton ahead with a goal which was a tribute to his opportunism.

Dawes did not play a conspicuous part, and he could not get in any of those storming shots for which he was famous when he wore the Palace colours, but he paved the way for Luton's second goal, scored by Stephenson.

The Orient defence was sound, Searle, Hearty and Affleck all doing good work. Smith and Nelson were out-

LUTON CLASS TELLS

Clapton Orient 0, Luton Town 2.

IT was true promotion form that Luton showed at Lea Bridge.

Clapton Orient were not quite good enough to cope with it, and class won through.

A crowd officially estimated at 17,430 were treated to much sparkling football with Luton the chief providers.

Nelson was their inspiration. The centre half kept a tight hold on Crawford, and, with long, sweeping passes to the wings, made himself equally valuable in attack.

Finlayson and Fellowes, his wing halves, who were given a warm welcome by former supporters, were grand workers.

Stephenson, at outside left, took chief honour among the wingers. He always knew a trick too many for Taylor and Searle, and his goal just before the end was grand. Taking the ball along as if tied to his toes he beat man after man and wound up with a beautiful drive that beat Hiram completely.

Joe Payne did not always have his own way with Affleck, who, with Hearty, the left back, were the best of the home defenders.

The forwards dallied too much, their short-passing style being entirely unsuitable for the heavy going.

Searle had a chance of giving Orient the lead in the first half, but failed with a penalty and Luton were too good afterwards.

Payne shot through a group of players soon after change of ends, and although Stephenson's goal did not come till ten minutes from the end there was never any doubt as to what the result would be.

Clapton Orient.—Hiram; Searle, Hearty; Taylor (H.) Affleck Heinemann; McCombe, Fletcher. Crawford, Smith (H.), and Farrell

Luton Town.—Coen; King, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Parris, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, and Stephenson.

Referee: L. Gibbs (Reading).