

LUTON TOWN'S

Six Points and Nine Goals to Nil

ALL-ROUND TEAM WORK THE IMPORTANT FACTOR

LUTON TOWN made a very happy haul during the holiday. They maintained their strong challenge to the Divisional leaders, Notts County, taking six points from their three games, and scoring nine goals without reply.

The three successes were mainly due to team work and real confidence. If the same determination and skill can be maintained in the remaining matches, there should be no further loss of points.

At Lea Bridge on Friday.

LUTON TOWN	2
Payne, Stephenson	
CLAPTON ORIENT	0
CLAPTON ORIENT.—Hillam; Searle, Hearty; Taylor (H.), Affleck, Heinemann; McCombe, Fletcher, Crawford, Smith (H.), Farrell.	

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Parris, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee.—L. E. Gibbs, Reading.

At Luton on Saturday.

LUTON TOWN	5
Hancock, Roberts, Payne, Stephenson, Finlayson	
MILLWALL ATHLETIC	0

LUTON.—Coen; King, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hancock, Rich, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

MILLWALL.—Burke; Smith (E), Inns; Day, Wallbanks, Forsyth; Thomas, Burdett (K), Steele, McCartney, Smith (J).

Referee.—T. Smith, Atherstone.

At Luton on Monday

LUTON TOWN	2
Roberts, Payne	
CLAPTON ORIENT	0

Luton team as against Millwall.

ORIENT.—Hillam; Searle, Hearty; Taylor (H.), Affleck, Heinemann; Miles, Farrell, Fletcher, Smith (H.), Codling.

Referee.—L. E. Gibbs, Reading.

GOOD FRIDAY

For the first time in their history, Luton Town took the points from Lea Bridge, and delighted the two or three thousand supporters who made the journey.

It was no easy victory, and the Town had to fight hard from start to finish, but science and superior team-work told its tale in the end, and they were well worth their margin of two goals.

Had the Orient's forward work been more incisive it might have been another



J. COEN

story, for they had the opportunities to take the lead in the first half when the strong wind and the slope was in their favour.

SAVED A PENALTY

However, though their approach work as neat, their finishing was poor, and they even failed to take advantage of a penalty awarded for hands against Fellowes. Searle made a weak effort with the kick, and Coen saved at full length. The Luton defence played finely, and kept the score-sheet blank until the interval.

Coen made a great save soon after the resumption, and after this, Luton took command, and did most of the pressing. They were soon rewarded with a goal from PAYNE, who snapped up an opportunity to crash the ball past Hillam from close range.

Subsequent play favoured the Town, with the Orient only occasionally dangerous, and then sound defensive work prevented them from reaching shooting distance. Fifteen minutes from the end, STEPHENSON took a splendid pass from Roberts, and beating two men, fired the ball into the far corner of the net, to make the issue safe.

ON SATURDAY

Millwall put up a very fine game in the first half, and although never so threatening as the Town, gave any amount of trouble to the defence. Indeed, for half an hour they were quite as good as their hosts, but after the first goal they gradually deteriorated, and although fighting hard to the last ditch, they were eventually well trounced.

HANCOCK scored the first goal following brilliant work on the Luton left, and



J. FINLAYSON

a shot from Stephenson which Burke saved by a dive across goal. He could not get the ball away, and Hancock was at hand to run it into the net.

ROBERTS' FINE GOAL

This was the only goal of the first half, but Luton asserted great superiority after the interval, and when ROBERTS scored with a lightning drive five minutes after the restart, the issue seemed fairly safe.

The other goals came from PAYNE, who failed to shoot past Burke with a penalty shot, but managed to get the ball as it rebounded from the goalkeeper and scored with a clever drive.

STEPHENSON added the fourth with a magnificent effort after Payne had made the opening, and finally FINLAYSON added the fifth with a beautifully judged shot from twenty-five yards range, the

ball striking the post ere passing into the net.

Millwall had few chances in this half, and the Town defence played finely to a man. The solidity of the defence gave inspiration to the forwards, and they responded grandly. Victory was thoroughly deserved.

ON MONDAY

From the outset of this game the Orient made it their main business to foil the Town forwards. They rarely made any concerted attack, although there was individual cleverness that occasionally gave the crowd a thrill.

Luton were attacking almost without cessation, but so stoutly did the visitors defend, and so well did they mark individual players that Hillam had comparatively little to do in view of the persistent pressure.

When necessary he saved finely, and this was especially the case in the second half, when the Town forwards played desperately for a goal. The Orient defence was adamant in courage and strength, and fought like demons to keep a point as the game wore on.

Coen, who had little to do, saved the Town by a daring save when he dashed out of goal and foiled Farrell as the latter aimed at point blank range. This was followed by more hectic assaults at the other end, and eventually success.

LATE GOALS

After clever work all along the line ROBERTS secured, and after a quick dribble drove in a mighty shot which hit the underside of the bar and passed into the net.

Back again came the Town and PAYNE accepted a tricky pass from Hancock and whipped the ball past Hillam in a race to make the game safe.

It was a thrilling finish to a game that had caused much palpitation among players as well as among spectators.

ABOUT THE PLAYERS

Games with London rivals invariably test the Town to the full, and they usually come off successful. For the three games the Town called upon thirteen players, for Parris and Dawes were injured on Friday, and were unable to play in the two following games.

Dolman and Mackey were still on the injured list, and so Coen came back into goal, and King was still at right back.

Coen proved that his spell in the Reserves had not diminished his skill or his keenness. He played splendidly at Lea Bridge, and although in the two home games he did not have a lot to do, there were one or two ticklish situations that found him alert and safe.

King has proved completely the wisdom of the directors in securing him. While he does not lack dash and speed, he relies to a great extent on his cool head and his judgment, and he played splendidly in all three games. Smith comes in a different category. Always dashing, always working at top speed, he was apt to leave too much rope to the opposing winger in each of the two home games. That was the only fault one could find with him.

GREAT MIDDLE LINE

The middle men came through three gruelling struggles with great honour. Nelson was absolutely at his best. His



J. NELSON

judgment as well as his physique, or perhaps one should say rather than his physique, took the edge off opposing attacks, and gave his own team the necessary confidence.

Finlayson and Fellowes were just as good in their different spheres. Both gave magnificent support to the forwards, and were never lazy for a moment.

THE FORWARDS

The left wing, Roberts and Stephenson, maintained the highest standard in all three games, and in each proved to be the best wing on the field. As they are playing to-day they are the big hope of the supporters. Parris was playing really well at outside-right on Friday until injured, and Dawes also suffered in that game. Result was the return of Hancock, with Rich as partner, in the other two games.

Hancock is very useful as a winger, and I do not wholly agree that he is better as an inside forward, but there can be no doubt that his nippliness on Monday had a lot to do with the late win, for when he changed places with Rich there came a new kind of pressure—better combination in the line. Rich added plenty of dash to the attack, and at outside-right was more at home and caused more danger to the opposition.

The attendance on Saturday and Monday topped 18,000, and receipts over £1,100 each day.