



Luton Town's match with Gillingham, a vital one in the race for promotion, provided Payne with a further hat-trick, and the Town with two valuable points. Joe is seen above scoring one of his four goals. Whitelaw the Gillingham goalkeeper was injured during the match but recovered after attention.

Payne's Four Lift Luton Nearer

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Luton 5, Gillingham 2

Luton had to fight hard to take full points from Gillingham last night. They owed a great deal to the defence for steadiness against the vigorous onslaught of a powerfully-built and speedy attack.

Also to Payne for a display as clever as it was courageous in leading the Luton attack.

Payne scored four goals, and had he been less unselfish he might have scored several more, but he was obviously trying to share some of the glory with his colleagues.

Gillingham showed tremendous vigour, and frequently shook the Luton defence by the rapidity of their assaults.

However, they had no one who could put the scotch on Payne. He scored two in each half.

Between his first two came a very fine effort from Finlayson, who dribbled at least twenty yards before beating Whitelaw with a magnificent shot.

Gillingham's first goal came from Watson just before the interval, and their second from Hartley, with the very last kick of the match.

SELECTORS SEE PAYNE GET FOUR

Luton Centre-Forward Gives Wonderful Display

Luton Town 5, Gillingham 2

PAYNE, Luton's centre, was rampant last night. He scored four. No other forward had half the ability to hit the ball either so hard or so accurately. Possibly this fact was noted by the numerous officials from high quarters present.

Payne's first goal, after five minutes, was a great effort. Taking the ball in his stride, he swept past a couple of opponents and coolly beat Whitelaw as the goalkeeper came out. Finlayson emulated him a few minutes later, scoring a grand goal after a wonderful solo effort. And then Payne, dashing through the defence at a terrific pace, turned into the net a pass from Hancock while Whitelaw and Armstrong were trying to hamper him.

Gillingham's first goal came from Watson and followed a hot assault in which the goal had many narrow escapes. Two minutes later the effort was repeated, but Watson's second successful shot came from an offside position.

Luton had much the better of the exchanges in the second half, but were very uncertain in front of goal. Payne headed his third with a magnificent header and his fourth went in like a cannon-ball, shivering the crossbar en route.

With the very last kick of the match Hartley replied following another drive which struck the bar.

King was a very clever back and Nelson a powerful pivot. The attack was inconsistent and would have been a poor thing but for the liveliness of Payne and in less degree Hancock and Stephenson.