

PAYNE PUTS FOUR IN THE NET

Luton Town 5, Gillingham 2

B RILLIANT play by Payne, was once more the factor in Luton's sound victory, which keeps them within striking distance of the leaders. Positions at the top of the table are now:—

	P.	W.	D.	L.	Goals		
					F.	A.	Pts.
Notts Co.	38	21	10	7	69	48	52
Luton	37	23	4	10	86	49	50
Brighton	38	22	4	12	67	40	48
Walford	38	18	10	10	75	50	40
Southend	37	17	10	10	74	55	44
Reading	38	17	10	11	68	55	44

Payne hit the net four times, each a characteristic effort, in which he had to beat opponents either by quickness of limb or wit. Altogether he gave a sporting defence a very hot time.

To their credit, the Gillingham defenders took their hard knocks well, and the attack—which included Hartley, a back, at centre-forward—gave Luton's defence a rare gruelling, fighting hard, swinging the ball about and shooting at every opportunity.

Brilliant Goal

Though they lacked the finer points of the Luton forwards, they were very useful indeed.

Payne opened the score with a brilliant solo move five minutes after the start. Then Mason followed with a second, a clever shot after a neat dribble in which he beat three opponents. Payne got the third, when he suddenly pounced among a group of players and forced the ball over the line.

Gillingham made a terrific assault just before half-time, and Watson easily scored, after Coen had saved three times in quick succession. Watson netted a second, but was well offside.

In the second half, Luton, if not exactly in supreme command, were certainly better combination than previously, and the Gillingham defence underwent many exciting episodes. A grand header by Payne and then a terrific shot from the same player completed the winner's score.

Just when everybody was expecting the final whistle a swoop by Gillingham's right wing took Luton's defence by surprise, and Hartley first struck the bar and then netted from the rebound with the last kick of the match.

Luton were best served in defence by King and Nelson, while the forwards, Payne and Stephenson, were easily the best.

For Gillingham, a workmanlike team, Lester, Armstrong, Hartley, and Watson, were the shining lights.

Luton.—Coen, King, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes, Hancock, Dawes, Payne, Roberts, Stephenson.

Gillingham.—Whitelaw; Bailsom, Lester; Randle, Armstrong, Hopkins; Dodds, Wilson (T.), Hartley, Duncan, Watson.