

LUTON HAVE TO FIGHT

Now Only Two Points Behind Notts

Luton 5 Gillingham 2

LUTON are now only two points behind the Southern Section leaders with a match in hand. The promotion aspirants' records are:

		Home.			Away.			Goals.					
	P.	W.	D.	L.	W.	D.	L.	W.	D.	L.	F.A.	Pts	
Notts O.	38	21	10	7	14	3	2	7	7	5	69	48	52
Luton...	37	23	4	10	15	1	1	8	3	9	86	49	50
Brighton	38	22	4	12	14	4	1	8	0	11	67	40	48
Watford.	38	18	10	10	14	4	2	4	6	8	75	50	46
Southend	37	17	10	10	10	7	3	7	3	7	74	55	44
Reading	38	17	10	11	12	5	2	5	5	9	68	55	44

With a reconstructed attack, Gillingham put up a desperate fight, and had they been a little more methodical in their finishing they might have run the result to a closer margin. Territorially they were a little inferior to Luton, but where the home team prevailed was in their better understanding both in attack and defence.

Payne was the live wire of the home attack, which was rather inconsistent and many chances were missed. Payne himself, though scoring on four occasions, was at fault, frequently passing to a colleague when he could easily have increased his own bag. Finlayson was Luton's other scorer, Watson and Hartley netting for the visitors.

In the home defence Smith showed much improvement, but Nelson was probably the outstanding figure. All the middle line played well, and of the forwards Payne and Stephenson were the pick.

In Gillingham's somewhat unusual side—two centre-forwards occupied the wings and a full-back was at centre-forward—there was plenty of enterprise, and the Luton defence was taxed to the utmost. At half, Hopkins played well, and Ballsom and Lester were reliable backs. Whitelaw was also in good form in spite of a bad knock he received when trying to foil Payne's second goal.

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

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