

UNITED DESERVED TO WIN

FORWARDS HAD MORE DASH THAN THE TOWN'S

TWO GOALS IN THE FIRST HALF sufficed to give SHEFFIELD UNITED the points in their match with Luton Town at Bramall-lane. It was an undistinguished sort of game, with neither side completely able to overcome the handicap of a light bouncing ball, with the result that the football was rarely of a high standard.

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THE UNITED WON mainly because of their superiority forward, and their greater dash and punch at close quarters. There was little to choose between the respective defences though the home rearguard was seldom caused any real apprehension.

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THE TOWN FORWARDS did fairly well in midfield, but when they were anywhere near the goal, they were all at sixes and sevens, and a goal never looked at all likely. Not one of the five was outstanding, though Dawes occasionally found the limelight with some bright flashes.

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PAYNE WAS CLOSELY MARKED by Johnson, but he never showed any of his old time dash, and missed one glorious chance in the first ten minutes. He should have scored then, but fired over with only Smith to beat. Hancock simply could not get the ball across, and Roberts and Stephenson scarcely did anything of note.

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IT WAS A DISJOINTED LINE that never seemed to make ground, and most of the passing was most inaccurate. The shooting was surprisingly poor, and the only shot that ever looked like getting past the watchful Smith came from Dawes in the second half. It was a blinding drive from 25 yards, and the goalkeeper did well to cut it out.

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SHEFFIELD DESERVED TO WIN, but the Town will meet many better teams before the season is out, and if the forwards had reached something like normal, a point might well have been earned. Lutoiff not say that they had no chances, for the ball was as often in the home penalty area as it was in their's.

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THE DEFENCE STOOD THE TOWN IN GOOD STEAD, especially in view of the futile efforts of the front line. The halves and backs had to carry more than their share of the burden, and they came out of the ordeal well. There was little wrong with the middle line, except a little slowness in tackling at times, and Nelson once more stood out.



TOM SMITH

I LIKED HIS EFFORT to rally his forces when he went up among the forwards, and had a shot from well inside the penalty area. He gave Dodds little opportunity and held him in a tight grip. Finlayson and Fellowes were on the go all the time, and worked like terriers.

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SMITH WAS THE BETTER BACK, and compared favourably with any defender on the field. He scarcely made a mistake from beginning to end, and dealt ably with a dangerous winger in Leyfield. King, too, played courageously, though at times Jones's speed was a trial to him. Coen was as safe as could be desired.

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THE FIRST GOAL WAS A SCRAMBLING SORT OF AFFAIR, and actually was a lucky point. Leyfield crossed the ball first of all, and it travelled to Jones, who centred rather poorly along the ground. Two United men and Nelson all missed it, and it went back to LEYFIELD, who had a simple task to score.

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THE SECOND WAS A CLEVER EFFORT by GARDNER, who fooled the Town defence completely, to break clean through and beat Coen comfortably from close range. He should have been tackled, but he feinted beautifully.