

LUTON TOWN WIN AGAIN

FULHAM WELL BEATEN

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN gained a well-earned victory over FULHAM on Saturday. Conditions were really wintry, the blizzard that swept down from the north country giving Luton a rather severe lick, and, before half-time, the players were feeling the effects of the extreme cold and of the heavy going.

FULHAM players evidently were anxious for the referee to call a halt soon after the interval, which had been of the briefest, as the players turned round without leaving the field for a refresher. The official, however, never seemed to doubt his ability to see the game through.

LUTON BEGAN in brisk fashion, and Payne might have scored in the first minute, but his first-time shot was just wide of the mark. Tootill was constantly in action, and the Fulham defence had a gruelling time. Over and over again, the visiting goalkeeper proved his skill by remarkable saves, and, perhaps, the best of the match was from Stephenson, who banged in a terrific shot which the goalkeeper managed to turn on to the bar, whence the ball rebounded into play.

QUITE TWENTY MINUTES had elapsed before the visitors made a threat of note, and then Finch had to shoot from long range, and Dolman was never in trouble. Play was in the Fulham penalty area most of the time, and Gibbons, Tootill, and the backs were kept at full stretch, and played well.

THE FIRST GOAL came as the result of a free kick. Mackey lifted the ball right into goal, and Tootill advanced to take it, but the ball slipped between his arms, and rolled out for PAYNE, who was moving in, to shoot hard into the net—an opportunist goal.

TOOTILL still had his work cut out to prevent further goals, for all the Town forwards were well on the mark though they had chances that should have

counted. However, the second goal came in a fashion which evoked tremendous applause, and was typical of Payne. Stephenson got through on the left, and centred squarely; PAYNE dashed across and shot hard first time with the left foot, and the ball passed just inside the upright, with the goalkeeper helpless.

FULHAM RAIDED from the kick-off, and should have scored. Their forwards put in nice passing which had the Town defence in a rare tangle, and Dolman was drawn out of goal, but the ball was diverted to the left. Finch lifted the ball into the goalmouth, and one of the Town defenders handled. Rooke's penalty-kick was within the long reach of Dolman, who made a good save, and so the interval arrived with the Town leading by two goals to nil.

SECOND-HALF PLAY was almost a farce, but the Town were decidedly the better side, and, after Fulham had made one or two menacing moves, and had been repelled after testing Dolman, the Town were soon on top again, and Tootill was kept very busy. He saved from Dawes, Payne, Vinall and Roberts in quick succession.

GOING was now very difficult, and the players had hard work to keep the ball on the move. Still the Town showed better understanding and better adaptability, and were often testing Tootill. DAWES beat him with a long shot from the wing, the ball swooping down and just eluding Tootill's grasp.

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, VINALL took advantage of clever work in which Finlayson and Dawes were prominent, and he took the ball in his stride, and correctly aimed past Tootill's left as the goalkeeper rushed out. Further attacks were made, and, apart from a few raids in which one or two corners were forced by the visitors, Dolman had an easy time.

LUTON WON because they had better



FELLOWES

understanding, more pace and determination fore and aft. The defence was very sound and protected Dolman well. Mackey, Smith and Nelson were always alert, and gave good passes to their forwards, while Finlayson and Fellowes were always assisting the attack.

THERE WAS LITTLE to choose among the forwards. They combined well, and swept down on the goal at great speed, while, if their shooting was open to improvement, they still managed to give Tootill more work than any goalkeeper has had at Luton this season.

FULHAM were best served by their goalkeeper, Gibbons, and Hindson in defence, but the halves never showed skill enough to hold the Town forwards, and the Fulham attack received little help from their middlemen.

LUTON TOWN		4
Payne (2), Dawes, Vinall		0
FULHAM		0
LUTON TOWN. —	Dolman; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Dawes, Payne, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson, FULHAM.—	Tootill; Hindson, Keeping; Warburton, Gibbons, Tompkins; Worsley, O'Callaghan, Rooke, Finch, Arnold.
Referee.	—	L. E. Gibbs, Reading.