

LUTON FORWARDS COULD NOT FIND FOOTHOLD

Sound Defences

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	1
Vinall	
NORWICH CITY	1
Coleman	

LUTON.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Dawes, Payne, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson.

NORWICH.—Duke; Halliday, Bowen; Robinson, Reilly, Morris; Friar, Coleman, Ware, Manders, Madden.

Referee: P. S. V. Reed, Raynes Park.

Conditions again disarmed criticism, but everybody must have left the ground feeling that Norwich were lucky to take away a point. Generally the City were outplayed everywhere except in defence, and had it been possible to secure a foothold properly near goal Luton must have scored a bagful, assuming, of course, that they were in even average shooting form.

Norwich were about the poorest team we have seen at Luton, excepting Fulham, and while giving their defence all credit for a brave and stubborn display, their chief succour was the weather, which made control extremely difficult, and especially for the forwards.

For every attack the City made, if raids could be so designated, Luton made half a dozen. In only one short phase in each half did the City sustain anything like a strong attack, and the chances they had came because Luton's defenders wobbled two or three times on the tricky surface, and the City wingers and Ware were always looking out for such a chance.

WARE A BIT WEARING

Game was contested in splendid spirit, the only marring effect being the duels between Nelson and Ware. Ware is the player who, when with Sheffield Wednesday, had his jaw broken while playing against Norwich City. After seeing him for the first time on Saturday I am not surprised. If he does not get his nose broken sooner or later it will not be for lack of invitation on his part. And that is a rather hard thing to say about a player even at Christmas time.

Indeed, I think at times the good spirit became like "By your leave as between Vinall and Reilly," and the latter shone more than he would have done if there had been a little more determination in the centre—the usual determination, shall we say.

THEY DON'T SEE IT

What Vinall did, however, and what his colleagues still failed to see, was the clever heading which beat Reilly, and still there was no forward with the wit to take advantage of the move. Why on earth the players allow match after match to pass without being up to take advantage of this move of Vinall passes my comprehension. At least four times Vinall headed the ball beyond the centre-half, who was well beaten, but there was no other forward to dart in and make use of it.

Hang it all, if the move comes off only once during a game and brings a goal it is worth the waiting and watching.

ATTACK BELOW COLOUR

The Town attack did not function at all well on Saturday, for the right wing was right off colour. Payne could do right only in spasms, and Dawes got a knock early on which evidently reduced his effectiveness. Roberts played hard, and for once in a way—it is a very long time since we were able to say it, so it is none the less worth saying—George Stephenson played right up to his best. That is a good sign, and it is to be hoped he will keep it up and so solve the problem that has worried everyone connected with the club ever since the season started.

GOOD HALVES AND BACKS

Finlayson and Fellowes did all they could to get their forwards moving, and both controlled the ball very well indeed, even if apt to overdo it at times. The forwards should have done better with the service they got, even allowing for the ground difficulty.

Nelson in the early stages brought some trouble to his own lines by hanging on unnecessarily or even unwisely, but later he dropped that and cleared his lines well, and mastered Ware four out of five times.

Mackey and Smith were strong and kicked cleanly. Smith had a great match and adopted the right methods against an attack that had plenty of edge had it been allowed to develop. I suppose it is no use saying that there were times when the left back should have been in closer touch with the opposing winger, because he won't do it. Still, I liked his spirited play, and Mackey was just as good in a somewhat more cautious fashion.

Coen made a few good saves, but I was glad that the goalkeeping generally was at the other end.

NORWICH'S BEST

Norwich had a few very good players, and I do not know that I liked any better than the old Villa player, Bowen. He used his head to grand purpose, and

by coolness and judgment deflected many an attack that would have given much trouble to Duke. Halliday also played a strong game, and Reilly completed a defence that kicked hard, tackled unhesitatingly, and had the merit of fighting to the last ditch. Duke kept goal cleverly, though he had a few lucky breaks.

Coleman was the best man of the City attack, and little was seen in the way of combination or shooting.

Ware was a trier, often in a wrong way, and should have scored when he broke through and had only Coen to beat in the second half. The wingers did not get too much of the ball, but they did the right thing in having a shot at goal when opportunity occurred, for on the slippery ground there was always a chance of a speculative shot beating the goalkeeper.

THE GOALS

Luton had done nearly all the attacking, and Duke had made a lot of saves before the first goal, and it fell to the City. Friar broke away, and with Coen drawn out of position, and all the defenders anywhere but in the right place, COLEMAN netted easily.

The Town goal had perhaps the luckiest escape of the match just afterwards, for Coen was out of goal by yards, had lost the ball, and Friar shot at the vacant goal; just in time Nelson arrived on the spot and booted the ball clear.

Luton then drew level, and the opening was made by the left wing, Roberts, eventually putting the ball through for VINALL to take in his stride and shoot accurately into the net as Duke advanced.

BLANK SECOND HALF

These goals came after an hour's play, and subsequently the hottest spell of attack during the game was inflicted on Duke's goal, and shots from close quarters were banged in again and again, and once Roberts clouted the bar, but the ball would not go into the place designed for it. Second half was nearly all Luton; almost incessant attacks were nullified because the Town forwards could not stand up well, and because the City defenders could, and as they were nearly all playing full back the road to goal was well covered.

Attendance: 14,356; receipts: £814 13s. 6d.