

Injured Player Scores Twice

CLEVER OPPONENTS WHO COULD NOT SHOOT

By CRUSADER

LUTON TOWN 3
Stephenson, Mackey (2).
BURNLEY 1
Miller (penalty).

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

BURNLEY. — Adams; Robinson, Chester; Martindale, Woodruff, Smith (W. S.); Stein, Miller, Robson, Brocklebank, Hornby.

Referee.—I. H. W. Wright, Derby.

WHEN we see football of the type that Burnley played on Saturday we are apt to wish that we had players as good as the very clever inside forwards, Miller and Brocklebank, and perhaps I might say that the wingers of the Lancashire club at times made us wish we had fleet-footed and tricky men as good.

Suppose we had: what would be said if they also brought along with them their failings? It would be a different story, of course. After all, we want to see goals, and plenty of them; we never can have enough of them, and all the pretty play and the prancings and caperings like a troupe of ballet dancers would cut little ice with Luton supporters if the shooting was not good.

Much though I enjoyed the craftsmanship of the Burnley attack, the manner in which they controlled the ball and made easy the way to goal, I preferred something more solid—the dash of Payne, the directness of Stephenson, and the coolness of the new forward capture, Mackey.

MACKEY'S PART

I do not believe the crowd have ever been more delighted over an individual performance this season than they were over the success of Mackey. In consequence of an infringement of his in the first half he brought upon his head the rebuke of loud voices from spectators—stand side, of course, as a supporter said to me on Saturday night—but those same voices were raised in exultation when he scored his goals in the second period.

Rightly, too, for I am not sure that Mackey's steadiness was not the decisive factor of the match.

I am not sure, either, that forwards would have scored as neatly if they had been given the opportunities, for neither Dawes nor Roberts was consistently conspicuous.

DIFFERENT METHODS

Difference between the teams might be explained away by saying that Burnley tried to do brilliant things all the time; they forgot there were moments when sharp shooting was essential; they appeared to work on the lines that the goals would come of themselves if they continued to carve avenues through the Town defence.

The Town were less concerned with orthodox constructive methods than with goal-getting, and in spite of the fact that neither Dawes nor Roberts could coax the ball in the way they wanted it to go, there was a refreshing vigour about the attack, and Payne's earnestness and Stephenson's speed kept the Burnley defence very much alert.

Possibly the Burnley attack might not have been able to make so many rings of roses if Mackey had not been damaged early on. That is just open to question, but then it was not the sort of ground that Mackey likes; the ball was too lively for him, as it also was for Roberts.

DETERMINATION

The determination of the Town players who were on form was of inestimable value, and if the whole team had been up to concert pitch there would probably have been more goals.

Often Payne had staggered the defence but there was no one up with him to round off the work, and that was where Roberts and Dawes were lacking. Roberts was always a great trier, but Dawes seemed too hesitant in his work altogether, and it would have given him more heart if he had been fortunate enough to score with the best shot of the match, which evoked one of the two best saves.

Payne certainly gave the impression that he had come back very near to his best, but the ball did not run kindly for him, and three times he would have scored had the ball

travelled a foot the other way after he had beaten the goalkeeper.

STEPHENSON SHINES

Stephenson was perhaps the best forward, and many thrilling races he had with Robinson, often beating him, and he also centred well. Ferguson usually got the ball across quickly when he was at outside right, and did not often try to draw the opposition before parting with it. Ferguson went to right half in the second half and whatever he lacked in half-back skill there could never be any complaint about his courage and stamina.

Both Finlayson and Fellowes played capital football, and Finlayson played successfully at right back after the interval. Nelson put up a grand performance at centre-half, spoilt to some extent by the foul that resulted in a penalty kick, but he held Robson in a certain grip nearly the game through.

Mackey was handicapped by his crippled state, but Smith was safer than usual, and while one still thinks he should have closer touch with the tricky winger, his kicking and tackling were as sure as in any game this season. Coen made one thrilling save in each half, but in spite of Burnley's frequent assaults, he was not tested seriously very often.

CLEVER BURNLEY

Burnley's defence was fairly sound. Adams was a good goalkeeper, and both Robinson and Chester kicked and tackled well. Woodruff was a splendid



pivot, and had many great tussles with Payne, while Martindale and Smith were hard workers.

The combination of the forwards was really delightful; individually they showed wonderful control, and the passing was almost perfect, but there was no shooting worthy of the name. That was the failure of the attack, for in other respects they were much superior to the Luton vanguard.

THE GOALS

After a few skirmishes Ferguson swung the ball hard over in the most unexpected fashion, and STEPHENSON raced in and headed a grand goal. This came after four minutes.

Subsequently the Town defence had to withstand a lot of pressure, and once Coen made a miraculous save from Brocklebank after the latter had dribbled past all opposition.

The second half had hardly been opened before Mackey had to go to outside right, Finlayson and Ferguson each falling back a pace. Five minutes after the restart, Stephenson, always a menace to Burnley's defence, cracked over a good centre, and MACKEY met the ball first time and banged it into the net. Chester made a great effort to intervene, but the ball was almost over the line before it struck his head, and he only changed the direction of it from one side of the net to the other.

After give and take play the Town went further ahead. Payne darted through the defence with the ball at his toes; Woodruff and Chester desperately closed on him and checked his progress, but the ball flew out to the right, and MACKEY coolly controlled it, and then very carefully placed it past Adams.

The crowd were delighted with Mackey's success, and crippled though he was he got the ball into the middle several times in capital style.

However, the only other goal came at the other end. Hornby got clear of Ferguson and Finlayson and had just crossed the penalty line when Nelson brought him down. MILLER took the resultant penalty and scored.

Exchanges were always full of incident, but the Town defence played strongly against a clever attack, and there were more thrills at the other end.

Attendance: 15,163; receipts: £830 11s.

SATURDAY GOLF

South Beds Medal: First Division—G. H. Cleveley, 80—7-73. Second Division—J. C. Saxby, 93—20-73.

LUTON ANGLER'S PERCH

A specimen perch was caught at the Firbanks Pit, Leighton Buzzard, yesterday, by Mr. K. E. Buckman, of Luton, a member of Leighton Buzzard Angling Club. The perch was weighed in at 2lb. 4oz.