

SOUTHAMPTON TAKE REVENGE

LUTON'S DEPLETED TEAM GOES DOWN

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN sustained their fifth League defeat home, and the team that did it was Southampton, whom Luton had beaten by six goals to three early in the season at The Dell. It was a game in which Luton, despite the fact that they were handicapped by the injury to Lewis, sustained after only three minutes play, should have won on balance of play.

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FOOTBALL GENERALLY was very poor, because there was so little combination by either side. Luton were usually attempting to get goals by making rings round themselves as often as round the opposition, and Southampton were disposed to lam and lunge and then race like h-h-hanover.

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WITHOUT DOUBT the damage sustained by Lewis upset the whole of the Luton team. It meant that the defence was rendered unsteady, and the forwards were deprived of Roberts, and one could gather some idea of what his presence in attack means generally, because of the puerile efforts that were made without him.

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OSMAN maintained his reputation as a goal-scorer by scoring in the first two minutes. The goal was virtually a gift from Lutterloch and Coen, though which was the more generous or blameworthy would be hard to say. A harmless kick into the goal area seemed to be covered by both the Luton back and goalkeeper, but each hesitated, and Osman did not, and that was all there was to it.

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LEWIS WENT OFF, and after being bandaged, he returned with a pronounced limp. He had not been in action more than a minute when the Southampton right wing rushed through, and after a lot of struggle and steam had been let off, the ball was slipped across goal, and once more OSMAN was in the right place to hit it into the net.

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LUTON almost dominated the game after this. They certainly proved the better side in midfield, and the Southampton defenders were kept very busy, while Warhurst had heaps of luck, particularly when Redfern had only to steer the ball to score, but he banged hard, and raised the ball to the bar, whence it returned into play and safety.

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SOLO CALLS by most of the players often evoked cheers, but the results were nil, and while the Southampton forwards

had less of the ball, they were able to create more scares, firstly because they would keep the game open, and secondly because the Town defence had the jitters rather badly. So half-time came with Southampton hopes very rosy.

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SECOND HALF was again very largely a matter of Luton individual skill failing to overcome a resourceful and hard-kicking defence, and although there were howls often against the visitors or at the referee, and one or two appeals for penalty kicks, the promise of goals was not fulfilled.

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MIDWAY through the half, when Parkin and his left wing overcame the Town defence, the game was safe for Southampton. PARKIN struck the bar with a great shot, and after a little more struggle in the Town penalty area, he fired in another with better aim, the ball passing right away from Coen and landing in the net.

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LUTON STILL PERSEVERED, each in his own particular way, without much use for his colleagues, and it was an individual effort that brought a goal from FERGUSON, though he had at least two opportunities of shooting before he did so. He corkscrewed his way from near the touchline into the middle, misled two defenders, and twice could have cracked the ball at goal, but he wanted to be sure, so he set about getting round them again as they retreated; he managed it, and then shot hard; Warhurst got his hands to the ball, but could not hold it, and it went well over him, and the referee promptly awarded a goal.

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WARHURST and his colleagues protested that the ball was not over the line, and spectators in the vicinity said the same, but the referee refused to consult the linesman or anyone else, and the goal counted. Perhaps it compensated for one of the penalty kicks that should have been awarded in the first half.

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THE REST of the game was a struggle between Southampton's defenders and Luton's forwards and half-backs, but the shooting of the attackers was not of the same class as that of the defenders, and so the game ended with Southampton avenging the defeat they sustained at The Dell.

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LUTON'S DEFENCE was below par altogether. Smith was probably the best