

OFF THE MARK

LUTON FORWARDS FAILED TO SETTLE THE ISSUE

By "CRUSADER"

LUTON TOWN dropped another valuable point at home when they could only share four goals with SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY. Play was not consistently good, but it was always interesting, with plenty of incident, and was contested in sporting fashion.

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LOST CHANCES were the main cause for the loss of a point, the Town forwards failing badly at close quarters, although they had much the better of the exchanges. Wednesday's raids, however, were cleverly worked out, and their forwards were more deadly in their marksmanship.

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NELSON, MACKAY AND SMITH played very well, the first-named keeping the Wednesday inside men in check, while the backs, without reaching international grade, were fairly sound individually. There was need for better understanding all round in defence.

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FINLAYSON AND FELLOWES were on form at half-back, the former playing a grand game, and in attack Roberts and Connolly were best, the latter showing a lot of cleverness and being the most prominent in shooting efforts. Roberts was a worker all the time, and deserved better luck with his shooting. Hancock and Stephenson were better in the first half, and Vinall was a trier without much success.

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WEDNESDAY'S DEFENCE was very good, there being fine generalship all round. Catlin and Westlake were quick and accurate, and Smith a fine goalkeeper. The halves were not so good, but Robinson was the pick of a splendid forward line.

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LUTON PRESSED strongly from the start, but gave Smith very little trouble because they were inclined to delay their shots. On the other hand, Coen had to save well when Fallon put in a fine shot. The Town forwards harassed the Wednesday defence almost continuously, and with better shooting would have had an early lead.

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WEDNESDAY SCORED FIRST when ROBINSON snapped up a ball and bored his way through, finally to drive the ball hard past Coen, who had no chance. The Town quickly drew level, for after two attacks had been beaten off, Finlayson came again, and shot the ball over from the right; ROBERTS met it with his head, and away it went into the net.

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LUTON were the better side this half, and their onslaughts were repelled again and again by the Wednesday defenders, and Smith made grand saves. Connolly often won applause for shrewd moves, and he was also in the picture with his shooting efforts.

FINLAYSON worked into position and drove hard at goal, Smith touching the ball on to the bar, and it rebounded over. Later, Stephenson had wretched luck with a terrific shot from a free-kick, the ball striking the bar and rebounding. Half-time came without further score.

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SECOND HALF opened on a high note, each goal being visited and nearly falling in the first minute. So it continued for some time, but Luton still maintained the aggressive for longer periods, and with better finishing they must have taken the lead.

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SEVERAL SCRAMBLES took place in the Wednesday goalmouth, but the defenders kept their heads, and kicked and tackled strongly, and their inside forwards often came to the rescue. The Town forwards and flank halves worked the ball well, but could not finish off their movements with an accurate shot.

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WHEN HUNT and his inside forwards raided, Nelson usually mastered them, and most of the Wednesday's threats came from Massarella and Fallon, but Coen had not a lot of work. Connolly tried desperately hard to break through, and Roberts and Stephenson each essayed shots that were off the mark.

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CAME A WONDERFUL BURST by the Wednesday. They made rings round the Town defenders, the passing and dribbling being superb, and Hunt lashed in a shot which was apparently beaten out by Smith or Finlayson after it had struck the bar, appeals for a penalty kick being unheeded.

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PRESSURE was kept up, however, and at last succeeded, for after the defenders had been drawn to the middle and right, the ball was whipped out to FALLON, who controlled, and then shot over Coen's head for a very fine goal.

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LUTON RENEWED their struggles, and were beaten off only with difficulty. Fellowes and Roberts, however, initiated a movement that finally left CONNELLY with half a chance, and he took it, the ball passing just inside the post to bring the scores level.

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GREAT EFFORTS were made by the Town after this, but they still finished weakly, and Roberts sent the ball just over when he had a grand chance from a few yards range.

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LUTON TOWN 2
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY 2

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; Mackey, Smith; Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hancock, Connolly, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson.

SHEFFIELD WED.—Smith; Westlake, Catlin; Ashley, Millership, Walker (F); Massarella, Robinson, Hunt, Napier, Fallon. Referee: G W Jones, Nottingham.