

Town Beaten By A Better Side At Burnley

On Terms In Closing Stages, Then Free Kick Brings Decider

By **CHILTERN**

BURNLEY 3
Miller, Hornby, Rayner.

LUTON TOWN 2
Vinall (2).

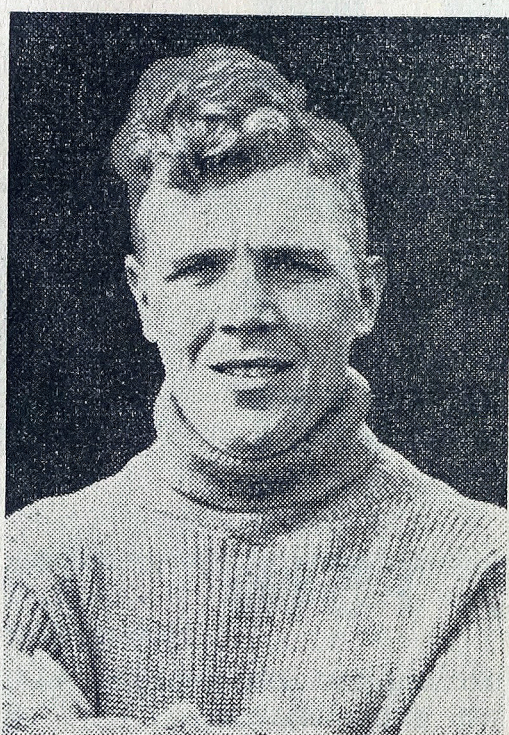
BURNLEY.—Adams; Robinson, Chester; Gardner, Johnson, Bray; Taylor, Rayner, Brocklebank, Miller, Hornby.

LUTON TOWN.—Dolman; Smith, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Nelson, Loughran; Ferguson, Connelly, Vinall, Roberts, Stephenson.

Referee: E. V. Gough, Stoke-on-Trent.

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WHEN VINALL HEADED A GOAL to level the scores nine minutes from the end, it looked as if Luton Town were certain to bring away a point from Turf



VINALL

Moore, but they were on terms for only four minutes before Burnley obtained the goal that decided the game.

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LOOKING AT THE MATCH from the angle that once getting on terms so late in the game the Town should have stayed there, a draw should have been made, but it would have been a rank injustice to Burnley. If Luton had avoided defeat they would have been lucky, and there were no two ways about that.

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BURNLEY WERE THE MORE CLEVER SIDE, and they more or less dictated play from the start. Their forward line, composed of five skilful players, and backed up by some brilliant, attacking play from Gardner, frequently had the Luton defence in trouble.

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AIDED BY POOR POSITIONING by the Luton backs and halves, the home forwards put in some pretty work, much of which was discounted by the poor work of their finishing. Had their shooting been

up to the same standard as their approach work, Burnley must have had a substantial lead long before the end.

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ON ACTUAL PLAY they were always a goal or two ahead of the Town, and it was only the tardiness of the opposition near goal that kept Luton in the game with any sort of a chance at all. Opportunities went begging, especially in the second half, and each member of the home front line was guilty.

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LUTON WERE THE FIRST TO SCORE, when Stephenson placed a corner well into the goalmouth. Ferguson headed in, and VINALL and a couple of defenders went for the ball together. Vinall's head got there first, and the ball was guided past Adams into the back of the net.

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EVEN SO, LUTON NEVER PROMISED to keep their lead, which might have been greater had Connelly accepted an easy chance in the opening stages. They were ahead for exactly four minutes, and then Burnley swept down on the right for Taylor to centre accurately. MILLER took a first-time shot at an awkward ball, and flashed it into the net.

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BROCKLEBANK HAD TO LEAVE THE FIELD with a cut head, and during his ten minutes' absence the Town came into the picture again, and there were loud appeals for a goal when Adams was hustled by Connelly. However, with Brocklebank's return, Burnley took up the running again, and a centre by Taylor brought the second goal six minutes from half-time.

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BROCKLEBANK JUST FLICKED THE BALL with his head, and HORNBY, who had run in, scrambled it through from close range. Luton put in one or two attacks after this, and, as usual, Roberts was out of luck with his shooting when he struck the woodwork.

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IN THE FIRST HALF-HOUR of the second half, play was almost completely in favour of the home side, and the Town goal had several narrow escapes. Then, with 15 minutes remaining, Luton rallied, and Ferguson provided VINALL with an opening to head the equaliser.

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THE WINNING GOAL CAME as a direct result of a free kick given against Dunsmore for hands. Gardner placed it into the goalmouth and Brocklebank, left unattended, headed the ball down for RAYNER to hit it into the net from close range.

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THE TOWN TEAM AS A WHOLE lacked determination, but a big part of the trouble could be put down to poor positional play by the defenders. Dolman and Nelson were the pick, but the others were below their best.

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VINALL WAS THE PICK OF THE FORWARD LINE, and his two goals were well taken. Connelly, and, to a lesser extent, Roberts, made the mistake of hanging on to the ball too long. Ferguson did better than Stephenson, who was overshadowed by Robinson until the last quarter of an hour.