

Luton Town Yield A Share

Blackburn Rovers Did Not Win Popular Favour

By CRUSADER

BLACKBURN ROVERS were visitors to **LUTON TOWN** on Saturday, and they improved on their visit of last season to the extent that they got away with a point, but they did not enhance their reputation. The Rovers' methods were not at all to the liking of the crowd, and before the game was many minutes old there were angry shouts to their defenders to play the game.

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MANY FREE KICKS were given against them, for they were having a gruelling time in defence, the Town forwards showing up well with clever combination and speedy movements. However, the tactics were profitable, for they seemed to throw the Town off their game, and the Rovers began to take a more important share.

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AFTER A FEW RAIDS had been repelled, once with great difficulty, Langton got the better of the defence and shot into the net, but the whistle had already gone for a penalty kick, and this was taken by **CLARKE**. His shot brought Coen down full length, and the goalkeeper had hard luck in seeing the ball spin out of his hands and over the line to give the visitors the lead.

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LUTON were soon striving hard to get level, and Redfern, who had early on struck the post with a great shot, was right through, but sent the ball high over, as did Vinall just afterwards. Stephenson and Clark in turn forced corners, and the Town forwards gave Barron plenty of work, but there were few really good shots put in, and those that were usually found a Rover in wait.

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STEPHENSON once dribbled through, and then drove hard at goal, but Barron went full length and saved, and when the Rovers got away, Coen was well beaten as he lay on the ground, and the ball was lobbed goalwards, but Smith raced back and with a grand hook sent the ball to safety.

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LUTON had rather the better of the exchanges, but their finishing was lacking in determination against a robust defence, which gave little rope to any attacker, and frequently gave free kicks for trips and other offences. At the interval the Rovers still held their lead:

ROVERS	1
TOWN	0

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LUTON TOOK UP THE ATTACK on the restart and Redfern nearly got through in the first minute. Just afterwards he was pushed deliberately right off the ball as he bored a way through inside the penalty area, but the referee refused the appeal, and the ball was scrambled away.

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THE ROVERS showed to advantage when they kept their wingers employed, and both Rogers and Langton gave much trouble when they raced through. Coen had to save several times, and Nelson did splendid work, while Smith and Dunsmore extricated the defence from awkward situations.

THE TOWN again took command, and the Rovers' goal was often assailed, but, try as they would, the forwards could not beat Barron, whose positioning and interception of centres was very good. However, after Stephenson had forced a corner off Hough, there came a struggle inside the penalty area, and when the ball came to **CLARK**, he rammed in a tremendous shot, which struck the farther post and left Barron helpless.

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THERE WERE MANY INFRINGEMENTS by each side, and the free kicks were usually met on each side by a packed defence, though often the Town forwards were given offside because of their eagerness. Exciting exchanges followed, first the Rovers and then the Town attacking with great determination, but the visitors had more pep when they got going.

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ROGERS MISSED BADLY, Smith kicking away from under the bar, and then another penalty was awarded the visitors when Smith raced over and charged over Rogers as he was racing in, the back's intention being to prevent Rogers getting at Coen, who was meeting the ball.

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CLARKE again took the penalty shot, and he aimed for the goal all right, but Coen dived across and brought off a really wonderful save at full length amidst ringing cheers. Then the Town took up the running again, and they had the better of the game to the finish, but they could not break down a sturdy defence.

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COEN KEPT GOAL well, but there was need for more understanding generally in the rearguard. Nelson was the outstanding figure, and Dunsmore did good work, but Smith was often beaten in the first half. He improved a lot afterwards, and on several occasions his penchant for dropping back into goal saved trouble.

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LOUGHRAN AND FINLAYSON put in all they knew, and the forwards tried hard to play good football, but they were up against a spoiling defence that gave no quarter. Redfern played finely, and Connelly also did many bright things. Stephenson and Clark each could have had more work, and Vinall was rather too well watched to be able to make much impression.

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THE ROVERS owed most to Barron, the backs and Pryde. They put up a very stout defence, and although they brought upon themselves often the wrath of the crowd, the Rovers' backs and halves wanted a lot of beating. Of the forwards, the wingers were as good as any we have had at Luton, but Clarke was the most dangerous of the line.

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LUTON TOWN	1
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Clark

BLACKBURN ROVERS	1
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Clarke (penalty)

LUTON—Coen; Smith, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Nelson, Loughran; Clark, Redfern, Vinall, Connelly, Stephenson.

BLACKBURN—Barron; Hough, Crook; Whiteside, Pryde, Chivers; Rogers, Butt, Weddle, Clarke, Langton.

Referee—T Smith Atherstone.