

CHANGE OF TACTICS DID THE TRICK

Coen Gives His Greatest Display For Luton

STEPHENSON BACK TO HIS BEST FORM

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN	5
Billington (2), Stephenson (2), Redfern	
BURY	2
Davies, Ormandy	

B U R Y. — Bradshaw; Gorman, Gemmell; Jones, Mathewson, Whitfield; Kilshaw, Bargh, Davies, Livingstone, Ormandy.

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

Referee: E. C. Carnwell, Lichfield.

Luton Town are fast becoming the problem team of the season, for although nothing is going right for them at home, they are supreme on opponents' grounds.

This win at Gigg-lane was their third in succession away, and yet their last four home matches have failed to yield a win.

In this match the Town were a team of vastly differing moods, and it was one of the most amazing matches I have seen Luton play.

It was pulled out of the fire by a wonderful second-half rally, and the margin of three goals in their favour at the end did not flatter them at all.

In fact, so much were Bury overplayed that it would have occasioned little surprise had the Town gone close to double figures.

A DIFFERENT STORY

Sparkling forward play and accurate passing by the halves simply swept the home defence off its feet, and goals were always a likely prospect.

What a different story there was in the first half. During this period Bury provided all the sparkle, and Luton were made to pay the piper.

Bury were two goals up at the interval, and but for moderate finishing their lead might have been considerably bigger.

At half-time I had absolutely no hope of Luton being able to save the game, and although I will not go so far as to say that they never looked like scoring in the first half, it is perfectly true to say that they never caused Bradshaw any undue trouble.

BURY'S SPARKLING FIRST HALF

We had a sample of the type of game the Bury forwards can play when they visited Luton last season. Well, in the first half-hour they reached that form, and then some.

Everything came off for them in attack, and the forwards were simply irresistible. Even so, the whole trouble did not lie with the Town defence's inability to cope with these raids.

The root was farther forward, and the chief reason for the home side's first-half supremacy was that Redfern and Connelly were not in the game as workers. They simply did not come back and fight for the ball.

WING HALVES DID AS THEY LIKED

The result was that the home wing halves, receiving no sustained challenge from the Town inside men, were able to do very much as they liked. Time after time they brought the ball up and pushed through fine passes of which the forwards could not fail to make use.

This liberty made the home wing halves look like internationals. They were drawing the Town defence all over the place, and Livingstone and Bargh, two very clever inside forwards, were carrying on the work, and the speedy wingers were doing the bulk of the damage.

For longish spells the Luton forwards never got a look in, simply because the inside men were too often standing still and were not doing the necessary foraging.

COEN STOOD BETWEEN BURY AND GOALS

That was how the first half went. While everything was going right, the Bury attack silted, and it was Coen, and Coen alone, who stood between them and a long lead.

I do not know what happened in the Luton dressing-room at half-time, but I can give a very good guess. Neli McBain must have had a talk with them that was very much of the "heart to heart" kind.

At any rate, in the second half Luton were simply not recognisable as the team that had been kept on the run for most of the time before the interval.

The inside men got on the job in a much more workmanlike way, and it was Bury's turn to feel the lash.

ON TERMS IN TWO MINUTES

It took Luton only two minutes after the resumption to get on level terms, and the next minute might have put them in the lead.

After this remarkable spasm of scoring, Bury simply were not in it. Connelly and Redfern schemed brilliantly, and with Finlayson the ideal prompter behind, the attack reached the same heights as had Bury.

There was speed and thrust on the wings, where Stephenson played his best game for many a long day, and punch in the middle, where Billington was again on the mark.

It was a magnificent victory, and although Bury were handicapped by an injury to Jones, who had to leave the field some twenty minutes from the end, I do not think that that made much difference to the result.

Even when they were at full strength, the Bury defence could not stem the Luton attacks, and goals were always in the offing. If Jones had been there, he could have done no more than did Bargh, who dropped back to right-half. Jones received a facial injury in a collision with Stephenson, and it is suspected that he has cracked his jawbone. He came back for the last ten minutes or so, and played at outside-right.

BURY'S STORMING OPENING

Bury made a storming opening, and in the first five minutes Coen had made at least half a dozen wonderful saves. Shots came at him from all angles, but he was in grand form and dealt with everything in great style.

The home side kept up the pressure fairly consistently, and Coen was constantly in action. The first goal was delayed for 27 minutes, and it was scored by DAVIES, who had previously been guilty of missed chances.

Ormandy made the goal possible with a beautiful centre that found Davies plumb in front of goal, and the centre-forward headed the ball hard for the corner of the net.

COEN NEARLY SAVED

Coen made a great leap, and to everybody's astonishment got his hand to the ball, which seemed an impossible feat. For a moment it seemed as if he had saved, but the ball dropped and just rolled over the line.

The lead was increased five minutes later by ORMANDY, who finished off a movement in which Kilshaw, Bargh and Davies took part, with a slashing shot that gave Coen no possible chance.

That was the end of the scoring as far as Bury were concerned, and Luton began to do a little better towards the interval, although their improvement was not enough to give hopes of anything better in the second half.

BILLINGTON OPENS LUTON'S ACCOUNT

However, before the crowd had got settled down for the second half, Luton had the ball in the net. Connelly began the move with a clever pass to Stephenson, who lifted the ball into the middle. Mathewson made a slip, and BILLINGTON was on the ball in a trice. He rounded the centre-half and drove the ball hard past Bradshaw from close range.

Straight from the re-start the Town swept down the field again, and this time the right wing was the means of a goal being scored.

Clark dropped in a high centre to which Bradshaw ran out, but missed completely. The ball went to STEPHENSON, and he crashed it into the net first time from an awkward sort of angle. The ball hit the underpart of the bar before crossing the line.

STEPHENSON PUTS THEM AHEAD

Luton went ahead for the first time 20 minutes from the end, and STEPHENSON was again the scorer, this time with a low shot after Smith had put the ball into the goalmouth and Billington and Redfern had touched it.

Coen had one or two opportunities of displaying his skill, but Luton were well in command, and the issue was put beyond all doubt by REDFERN eight minutes from the end. Clark made the opening, and Redfern's shot was quickly and accurately made.

Three minutes later BILLINGTON completed the rout, when Clark again centred. The centre-forward was hemmed in, but he beat two men in

masterly style before beating Bradshaw with a perfectly placed shot.

LOCALS WERE DUMBFOUNDED

The locals were dumbfounded by the quality of Luton's second half display. It was one of the finest revivals I have ever seen, and it is evident that this forward line will get a bag of goals.

In weighing up the game to Bury for credit must be given to Bury for wonderful football. It is doubtful whether any defence could have stood up to it, and it made Luton's play look a good deal worse than it was.

The change of tactics worked the miracle, and both inside men must be prepared to do some solid grind in every match.

Connelly was perhaps the worse offender of the two before the interval, but afterwards he showed that he can work as a cog in a machine, and not merely as an individualist.

To my way of thinking he did as much as anybody in the revival, and made some of the best passes I have seen from a Luton forward for many a long day.

Stephenson was plied with ball after ball inside the back, and the winger responded in magnificent style. Apart from this phase, Connelly put fire and life into his play, and did not potter about aimlessly as he did before the interval.

STEPHENSON BACK AT HIS BEST

Stephenson's return to top form was perhaps the most pleasing feature about the match. It was not so evident in the first half, when, in common with the rest of the attack, he was rarely in the picture.

Afterwards, however, he was a constant menace. He did not waste a ball, and used his speed to carry him past Gorman. The right-back simply could not hold him, and he made opening after opening.

This was Stephenson at his best, and when he is at the top of his form, he is good enough for anything. Let us hope that his luck has turned for good.

CLARK DID WELL AGAIN

The right wing also did its share, and it will be noticed that three of the goals came from Clark's centres. He kept plugging the ball across, and came out of his duels with the experienced Gemmell with every credit.

Experience is what he needs most, and this is something that only time can bring. In the meantime, if all his displays are of the same calibre as this, we shall have no cause to grumble. He missed a couple of chances, but in each case he did the right thing, and perhaps next time it will come off.

Redfern shared in the general improvement, and although not quite so prominent as he has been, contrived to put in much useful and clever work. At times, some slowness was detected, but he was always on the spot when the chances were going, and took his billington.

BILLINGTON WILL GET PLENTY OF GOALS

While Billington receives the support he had in the second half, he will continue to get goals, and the two he got were perfect examples of opportunism. Apart from his finishing abilities, he kept the line together well.

A glutton for work, he had the better of the duel against the hefty Mathewson, for whom he was much too quick, especially when the ball was on the ground.

After a spell of form below his best, Finlayson came to the fore with a grand display. He was more effective in defence, while in attack he was positively brilliant, and his passes were models of accuracy.

He was helped, too, by the improvement in Smith's positional play, and the right back played as well as in any previous match this season.

The whole defence had a trying time in the first half, and gaps were often apparent, but taking the game through and though, they did well, and there was nothing wrong with their defensive plan after the interval.

Dunsmore, too, did much better than he did against West Ham, although in the first half he was inclined to give Kilshaw a lot of room. This was remedied afterwards, with the result that little was seen of the clever outside man.

NELSON CAME THROUGH CREDITABLY

Nelson tried desperately to stem the tide in the first half when he frequently found himself faced by three forwards, and he came through a hard test with credit. After the interval he was supreme, and the Bury inside men found themselves in a vice-like grip. They were faced with a barrier against which they were powerless to do anything.

Loughran was a worker and a trier from start to finish, and did great things in defence. He was not so prominent in attack as was Finlayson, but managed to do a lot that was useful.

Biggest praise of all should go to Coen, who gave a first class display of goalkeeping. In the first half he might have been beaten half-a-dozen times, and no blame could have been attached to him.

It was he who kept the deficit as low as two goals, and some of his saves bordered on the miraculous. Coen has played some great games for the Town, but I should think that this must go down as the greatest of all. His spectacular work brought the crowd to its feet time after time, and they must have thought he was supernatural.