

# Luton Town Crushed

## Sheffield Wednesday Found Chinks In Defensive Armour

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN gave a lamentable display against SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY at Luton on Saturday. There were too many chinks in the defensive armour, and, although the forwards played well up to a point, their work was of no avail against a sound defence, whereas the Wednesday forwards could find many weak spots in Luton's rearguard, and exploited them to the full.

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LUTON HAD MORE OF THE PLAY from a territorial aspect, but the Wednesday concentrated largely on defence, and on flying raids by the wingers to upset Luton's defence, and these tactics succeeded beyond even their wildest hopes. On the run of play, the result was a travesty, but the Wednesday merited the points by their all-round generalship and superior strategy.

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EARLY PLAY was even, but the Town were the more aggressive. They were not so dangerous, however, as Coen was the first goalkeeper to make a daring save, and he was injured when he raced out to prevent Hunt taking a shot from close range. Coen had to receive further attention later, but his injury had nothing to do with the result, for he had no chance with the goals scored.

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PLAY WAS FAST AND KEEN, and the going was heavy. The home forwards dribbled cleverly, and their short-passing movements often took them through, but they did not finish well, and Goodfellow was able to accept all that came his way, until BILLINGTON met a centre from Stephenson, and the ball flew into the net from close quarters.

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THREE MINUTES LATER, HUNT got the better of a tussle with Nelson in midfield, and went right through to shoot past Coen. Almost immediately, Billington had wretched luck when he and Redfern beat the defence but his final effort rose just to high. Then the Wednesday left wing raced clear, and Fallon centred for MASSARELLA to head the second goal.

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LUTON PRESSED HOTLY after this, and again and again the Wednesday goal was in imminent danger, and had many escapes. Redfern hit the foot of the post, and Clark missed two good chances, while Hanford once cleared when Goodfellow was beaten. The Wednesday raids were always dangerous, however, and Coen twice made brilliant saves after the other defenders had been outwitted, and, at half-time, Wednesday led:

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|---------------------|-------|---|
| SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY | ...   | 2 |
| LUTON TOWN          | ..... | 1 |

SECOND HALF found play much on the same lines. Luton did far more pressing without ever appearing likely to break through the Wednesday defence, because the forwards would hang on to the ball. Several corners were forced, and many centres were put across, but the Wednesday defended strongly, and never gave anything away.

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A BURST on the Wednesday right provided their third goal, HUNT meeting a pass, and, unmarked, he sent the ball past Coen. This was quickly followed by a goal from FALLON, who made a quick dribble from the touch-line, and, speeding inside, he drove hard for goal, and the ball struck the upright, and glanced into the net.

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THE WEDNESDAY were forced to fight a defensive struggle for a long time, but continued to make troublesome raids through Massarella, Fallon and Hunt, and Coen was several times called upon, and did his work well. Luton, however, almost monopolised the attack, and Stephenson missed badly from close range. So did Clark, and Billington and Redfern, in turn, were pulled up when they had got very close.

\* \* \*

CONNELLY was a very live wire in the Town attack, and he did very fine work, but the Wednesday packed their defence well, and Goodfellow brought off a number of clever saves. It was nearing the end when there was a quick dribble by Robinson more than half the length of the field, and, in the finish, he passed for HUNT to score the fifth goal.

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LUTON'S DEFENCE was very poor, and, apart from Coen, there was not a player up to standard. Even Nelson was off colour, and the next best to Coen was Loughran, who was in perpetual motion, but often in the wrong place. The forwards played very good football, and gave the Wednesday defence a lot of trouble, but the habit of keeping the ball too close nullified their efforts.

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SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY ... 5

Hunt (3), Massarella, Fallon

LUTON TOWN ..... 1

Billington

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

SHEFFIELD WED.—Goodfellow; Ashley, Lester; Russell, Hanford, Burrows; Massarella, Robinson, Hunt, Napier, Fallon.

Referee.—W. P. Harper, Stourbridge.