

Luton Town At Their Best

Rousing Victory Over Chesterfield

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN'S failures at home had the usual effect on the attendance, but the stay-aways missed a grand game. There was never a touch of one-sidedness save in the bare result, for CHESTERFIELD played a strong, assertive game, in which they often developed attacks by skilful manoeuvres, and gave Coen and his backs many a hard passage.

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THE TOWN DEFENCE has never been more compact, and, whatever the reason for the improvement, whatever time has been spent, the effect was well worth while. Chesterfield were well beaten in the end, and the manner in which victory was achieved was as important as the actual result.

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TEAM-WORK, real co-operation in all departments, every player giving all he had in the matter of skill and stamina, and real fighting spirit, were factors that wore down the plucky visitors, who kept hard at it right to the end, even when they were hopelessly in arrears, and without hope of reaping anything from the game.

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COEN KEPT GOAL magnificently, and King was the best back on view, with Dunsmore close up. Roberts played finely at left-half, and Finlayson, if still somewhat slow, did many clever things. Nelson was at his best again, and almost eclipsed Milligan. Of the attack it may be said that all played brilliant football. Not only were they clever individually, but, better still, clever collectively, and the goals were the result of shrewd passes after splendid co-operation.

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CHESTERFIELD were admirably served by their goalkeeper. The backs and halves played stoutly, but were always kept on the run by the quickness and the skilful control of the Town forwards. Kidd and McMillen shone in defence, and, forward, Lyon and Bonass were the most dangerous.

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FIRST INCIDENT of note was an effort by Milligan to spring a surprise by a quick solo raid, but Nelson got the ball first, and sent it behind his own goal-line for a fruitless corner. Then the Town forwards gave the visiting defence something to do, and Middleton made a glorious save when Billington fired in a first-time shot.

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MIDDLETON again saved grandly from Redfern, and King nipped in the bud an effort by the visiting left wing, but they came again, and Nelson headed out from Bonass when Coen was beaten. The Town returned, and, following a free kick, BILLINGTON opened the score when he ran the ball into an empty goal after Redfern had beaten Middleton with a header.

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CHESTERFIELD attacked furiously, and there were desperate scenes in the Town goal area, but eventually the clearance was made. There followed a bombardment of the Chesterfield goal, and shot after shot struck defenders who were clustered round Middleton, and the goalkeeper eventually brought relief when he dropped on the ball as Billington was on the point of shooting through.

CHESTERFIELD promptly replied, and Lyon and Hughes each shot close; King and Dunsmore, in turn, distinguished themselves with sturdy work, and Coen brought off a good save at full length when Lyon shot hard, and, at half-time, the Town crossed over with a solitary goal lead:

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LUTON TOWN	1
CHESTERFIELD	0

THE TOWN were quickly attacking after the restart, the forwards playing remarkably well together, and Clark and Redfern were conspicuous for neat passing, but the visitors defended well. A raid by Chesterfield brought a centre from Hughes, and Mackie headed just wide.

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PLAY SLACKENED somewhat in pace for a time, but the Town were having the better of the exchanges, their attacks usually failing because of quick tackling, and, perhaps, too much holding of the ball in the middle of the pitch. Once Connelly darted through with the ball at his feet, and then gave Billington a clear passage, but the whistle sounded for off-side as the centre-forward shot into the net.

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CROWD WERE THRILLED, however, by the second goal, which fell to BILLINGTON following clever association with Stephenson. The centre-forward swerved past four opponents, and then raced ahead, and wound up with a brilliant drive right away from Middleton's desperate effort to save.

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CHESTERFIELD at once served up a counter assault, and Coen twice saved from Hughes, one wonderful effort being applauded to the echo. However, the whistle had sounded for an infringement by a visitor. The Town had another turn, and Middleton was often in action. Play became rather vigorous, and several free kicks were given. From one of these against Chesterfield, STEPHENSON scored direct from twenty-five yards, the ball passing just inside the post.

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MUCH TRICKY PLAY by the Town forwards followed, and eventually Redfern and Billington cleared the defence, and the latter raced through again and shot hard; Middleton saved at full length, but the ball went back to BILLINGTON, who made no mistake with the chance.

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JUST BEFORE THE FINAL WHISTLE Connelly tripped through in amazing fashion, beating man after man, and he was fouled three or four times, but the referee let him proceed until another infringement, just as Connelly was about to centre, compelled the whistle. Stephenson took the free kick, and shot the ball hard against a ruck of players; it dropped at the feet of BILLINGTON, who swept it into the net.

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LUTON TOWN	5
Billington (4), Stephenson	

CHESTERFIELD	0
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LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Nelson, Roberts; Clark, Redfern, Billington, Connelly, Stephenson.

CHESTERFIELD.—Middleton; Milburn, Kidd; McMillen, Booker, Weightman; Hughes, Lyon, Milligan, Mackie, Bonass.

Referee.—G. W. Jones Nottingham.