

Luton Town Beaten By The Odd Goal

Little Good Football At The Den

By Chiltern

MILLWALL 2
Fisher, Hedley

LUTON TOWN 1
Billington

MILLWALL.—Pearson; Lea, Dudley; Brolly, Chiverton, Forsyth; Fisher, Richardson, Barker, Smith, Hedley.

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

Referee: S. E. Law, West Brom.

LUTON TOWN'S LUCK AT THE DEN DID NOT HOLD, and their bad luck against the London teams continued. They have now played all four, and have netted only one point. There was little between the teams, but Millwall, who had the more chances, took two and scraped home.

* * *
EVEN THE MOST BIASED MILLWALL SUPPORTER would hesitate to say that the Lions' display was convincing, and had the Town returned with a point it would have been no more than they deserved.

* * *
IT WAS A GAME IN KEEPING with the afternoon—cold and dreary—and there was little in it to make the 20,000 spectators forget the discomforts of a particularly nasty wind.

* * *
TO BEGIN WITH, there was far too much whistle, and far too many stoppages for fouls, especially in the second half. The Luton players were penalised many times, but in my view often without due cause.

* * *
TIME AND AGAIN the referee's decision was against Luton when it seemed obvious that they were more sinned against than sinning. The tackling of the home players was as hard as any we are likely to see this season, and much rough play by them was missed.

* * *
LONG BEFORE THE END, play had deteriorated into a scramble, and taking the game through and through, there were few movements which were in keeping with the Division in which the teams operate.

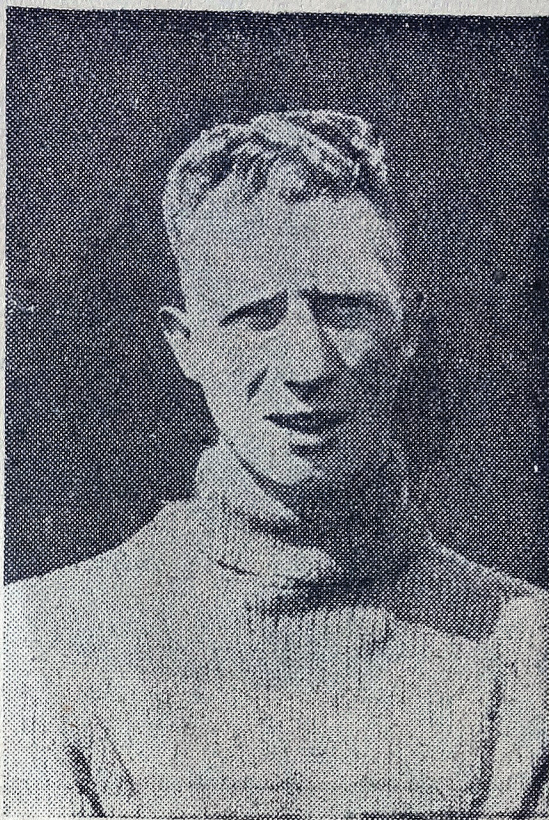
* * *
MORE SERIOUS TO LUTON than the loss of the points was an injury to Nelson 15 minutes from the end. He received a Millwall boot on his nose, and sustained a fracture which necessitated his removal to hospital.

* * *
WHATEVER HOPES THE TOWN HAD PLACED in a late rally to obtain an equaliser, fled as the captain was led off the field holding a sponge to his nose. Still, even under this handicap, they made a worthy fight, and no one can say that they did not contest every inch of the ground.

* * *
LUTON SUPPLIED WHAT GOOD FOOTBALL THERE WAS, and this came mostly from Redfern and Connelly, who, to their credit, never allowed themselves to be infected with the Millwall complaint of "kick and rush."

* * *
ALL THE SCORING TOOK PLACE in the first half, and first blood was drawn by the Lions after 12 minutes. A corner was given on the left when a goal kick would have been the correct award, for King kicked the ball against Hedley.

* * *
THE OUTSIDE LEFT PLACED the corner perfectly, and Coen, hampered by an opponent, could do no more than half clear the ball. FISHER, standing about



TOM KING

ten yards out, gained possession, and found the net with a low shot that passed miraculously through a crowd of players.

* * *
19 MINUTES LATER, the Town goal fell again. Fisher began the movement, when he found himself unmarked, and swung the ball into the middle. It glanced off Nelson's head to HEDLEY, whose task was simple. Even so, Coen made a great effort, and actually touched the ball.

* * *
THE BEST GOAL OF THE THREE was obtained by BILLINGTON three minutes before the interval. Clark broke away, and passed inside to Redfern, who neatly lobbed the ball over Chiverton's head. Billington was left with a grand opening, which he took coolly, and banged the ball past Pearson.

* * *
THE SECOND HALF WAS SCRAPPY, and it was only seldom that either side looked likely to add to their tally. Stephenson made the best effort for Luton, but Pearson stuck out his foot and turned the ball round the post. At the other end, Hedley, left with a "sitter," was under the impression that he was offside, and could do no better than hit the post.

* * *
LUTON'S DEFENCE MAINTAINED its improvement, but there was a decided weakness in the middle, where Nelson was far below his best. This threw extra responsibility on the backs and wing halves, who stuck to their task manfully.

* * *
KING HAD ANOTHER SPLENDID match, as did Dunsmore, apart from his tendency to give the nippy Fisher too much room. Finlayson did best after the interval, and put in great work when he took over Nelson's position.

* * *
ROBERTS ADDED TO HIS GROWING REPUTATION as a wing half, and Coen made some magnificent saves. In attack Redfern and Connelly were clever, and at the same time hard workers, while Billington, despite few openings, contrived to be a constant danger. The wingmen did not get a lot of workable material, and each did well in the circumstances.