

Liverpool's Win Was More Decisive Than They Deserved

Late Goals Give Wrong Impression Of What Took Place

By CHILTERN

LIVERPOOL	3
Balmer (2), Paterson	
LUTON TOWN	0

TWO GOALS IN THE LAST eight minutes put a totally wrong construction on this match, and gave Liverpool a far more decisive victory than they deserved. The home side never had any clear advantage, and if the amount of pressure exerted by each side could be calculated, I fancy it would prove to be fairly equal.

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THE RESULT EVENTUALLY worked out strictly according to the form book, but it gives an entirely erroneous impression of what actually took place. Victory might easily have gone to Luton, and as far as skill went, they were worthy of a replay.

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LIVERPOOL MADE THE MOST of what chances came their way, and for that reason, qualified for the next round. Another reason was that the Luton forwards could not round off some extremely good approach work, although it must be said that they were very unlucky in some instances.

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THAT THEY DID NOT SCORE AT ALL was due in part to a great display of goal-keeping by Kemp, the young South African, deputising for his countryman, Riley. It was his first cup-tie, and it will be memorable for him in more ways than one.

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BUT FOR HIS BRILLIANCE, the Town must have been ahead at the interval, and one save from Billington bordered on the miraculous. However, Luton were denied the fruits of their labours, and a first-half goal to them might easily have put the game in their keeping.

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IN THE FIRST HALF, the casual on-looker might have been forgiven for thinking that Luton were the First Division side, for they played football worthy of that grade, and were the more capable side all round.

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STEADY PRESSURE was kept up for long periods, and their constructive work reached a standard that was remarkable in view of the terrible state of the pitch. The forwards simply scintillated, but could not get the ball into the net.

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A GOAL SELDOM LOOKED like coming Liverpool's way, and the only real shock experienced by the Town supporters came immediately before the interval, when Balmer slipped the ball across the face of the goal with no one able to apply the necessary touch.

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THE GOAL THAT REALLY BROUGHT Liverpool victory, came after six minutes of the second half. The home side conceded twice as many free kicks as the

Town, but it so happened that the one Roberts gave away just outside the penalty area, when fouling Fagan, proved fatal.

NIEUWENHUYTS TOOK THE KICK, and placed the ball over towards the left-hand side of the post. BALMER beat the Town defenders to it, and headed it into the net. Coen seemed to touch the ball, but could not stop it.

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FOR A SPELL AFTER THIS, the Town were compelled to defend, and on several occasions, Coen had to be very nippy to save his goal from further downfall. One magnificent save from Busby was a highlight of the afternoon.

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THEN LUTON PULLED THEMSELVES together, and made a great drive for the equalising goal. They crowded on all pressure, and the home defence was kept busy. In the middle of the rally came an unexpected reverse, and it came in a most curious way.

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A FREE KICK WAS AWARDED against one of the Liverpool forwards, and Dunsmore merely kicked the ball along the ground to the spot where he thought it should be placed. Unhappily, he was under a misapprehension, and the next thing he knew was that play was on again.

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NIEUWENHUYTS gained possession, and hit the ball down the right, where Taylor, with the Luton defenders waiting for off-side, was allowed to go through. He lifted the ball into the middle, and after Coen had flicked it away, PATERSON lobbed it back into the net.

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LUTON WENT BACK TO THE OTHER end immediately, and Billington, with all the goal to shoot at, lifted the ball over the bar. That was the last straw, and in the last minute, BALMER obtained a spectacular goal to bring the total to three.

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THERE WAS AN ELEMENT OF LUCK about all three goals, but they were chances well taken. The score really does the Town defence a great injustice, for they played splendidly, and there was no weak spot.

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KING AND DUNSMORE were more impressive than the Liverpool backs, and the latter had an exceptionally good match. The halves were strong, with Finlayson and Roberts excellent both in attack and defence, and Dreyer doing everything that was required of him. Coen, too, was always safe and confident.

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LACK OF PUNCH was the chief failing of the forwards, who showed better understanding than the Liverpool attack. The three inside men were playing football all the time, with Billington continually harassing Bush. Stephenson was more consistent than Clark, who was none too happy against Ramsden.