

LUTON DAZZLE BUT WASTE MANY CHANCES

BY J. W. HOLLAND

Liverpool 3, Luton 0.

THE biggest mistake you can make is to judge this Cup-tie by the score. On the surface it appears that Luton Town were a well beaten side. Not a bit of it.

The result might easily have been reversed. That it was not can be attributed to two factors—the sins and errors of the Luton forwards and the activities of one, Balmer. But more of him later.

So well did Luton move in the first half, and so inept were Liverpool, that I wondered whether the teams were in their right divisions.

Spion-Kop was strangely silent as Luton demonstrated to all how to play progressive football on a pitch of glue-like qualities.

There was no biff and crash about their movements. The ball was made to do the work and was passed freely, strongly, and accurately from man to man.

Liverpool were in a hopeless state by way of contrast. They tipped the ball here and tapped it there and, of course, it stuck in the mud. Apart from Balmer their forwards were bereft of ideas.

Squandered

Luton, however, failed to drive home their advantage. Twice Stephenson was given chances to close in on goal and score, but squandered the opportunities.

On another occasion the downfall of Liverpool's goal seemed beyond doubt when three Luton players were left in a glorious position. They preferred to pass the ball, and the Liverpool defenders were thus enabled to retrieve the situation.

The best scoring effort came from Billington, and his first-time drive was brilliantly saved by Kemp, who flung himself sideways at the ball.

Having survived their first-half ordeal, Liverpool revised their style after the interval and, like Luton in the first half, they put their faith in the more open mode of attack.

Paterson went very close with a fast ground shot.

Then Fagan was fouled, and Nieuwenhuys's free kick was headed home by Balmer.

Prompted by the dynamic activity of Balmer Liverpool maintained their attack. Coen made a full-length save from Taylor, and another one when Busby feigned to centre and tried a left-foot shot instead.

Luton were by no means done with, and Kemp made two smart saves from Billington before Liverpool scored again. Taylor put over a centre which Coen deflected with his fist. The ball went on to Paterson, who scored.

Amazing Miss

Immediately afterwards Billington was guilty of a most amazing miss; two yards away from goal he drove the ball over the cross bar!

To increase Luton's agony, Balmer scored a glorious goal in the last two minutes, leaping into the air to drive home a knee-high centre from Nieuwenhuys.

Liverpool did not deserve to win by such a large margin, but they took their chances, and Luton did not.

Busby was the best half-back on view. Forward, Liverpool owed everything to Balmer. His two goals were fitting reward for untiring effort.

Luton's best was Dunsmore. He was most reliable when making a tackle, and his clearances were promptly and effectively made. At half-back Dreyer proved a big barrier to the Liverpool raiders.

Liverpool.—Kemp, Harley, Ramsden, Busby, Bush, McInnes, Nieuwenhuys, Taylor, Fagan, Balmer, Paterson (G.)

Luton Town.—Coen, King, Dunsmore, Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts, Clark, Redfern, Billington, Con-