

Luton Town's Return To Sparkling Form

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN gave their supporters a great treat on Saturday when they humbled proud Manchester City after a grand game. It was only after the interval that Luton were able to forge ahead, but once they had taken the lead, they asserted an ever-increasing mastery, and finally triumphed in sterling fashion.

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WEATHER WAS DULL, and although the ground was in much better condition than could be expected, it was still rather treacherous, and the ball was apt to skid, and deceived players. Both sides, however, played very clever football, and there were sparkling movements in which halves and forwards first of one side and then the other, contrived to launch telling assaults.

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WITHIN A MINUTE the crowd had seen Redfern make a great attempt to bore through, and then had a shock when a centre from Toseland all but eluded Coen, who, however, recovered the ball splendidly. Then the ball was carried quickly to each goal in turn, but the defenders were in grim mood, and covered well.

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BOTH TEAMS used their wingers, but the defenders collected in the goal area, and there were few opportunities for the inside men to shoot. The City defenders two or three times were glad to kick the ball wildly behind their lines, but the flag kicks were fruitless.

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SWIFT AND COEN in turn had to save, but already it was seen that Swift was likely to have the more work, and he showed nice judgment in meeting centres from either wing. Two or three of the City players were spoken to by the referee, and it was evident that they were getting more than they had bargained for from the Town team.

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CITY'S RAIDS, however, were fraught with danger, and both Toseland and Brook caused excitement by their speedy trips and centres, but the only dangerous shot came from Herd, who rattled the rails with a terrific drive, Coen watching the ball go to safety. Swift was caused no little trouble by the moves of Connelly and Stephenson, and he saved several corner kicks in fine style. Half-time:

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TOWN 0, CITY 0

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SWEEPING DOWN on the right, Carroll dropped over a fine centre in the first minute after restarting, and Cardwell probably saved the goal, for he dived in front of Billington and headed the ball behind. The Town maintained the attack strongly, and City's attempts to make headway were thwarted. Connelly sent a swift shot just over the bar, and the City crowded into their goal area.

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SWIFT MADE CLEVER SAVES, and even Dunsmore rushed through once and tested the goalkeeper. Persistently the Town attacked, the halves driving the forwards into action with brilliant and forceful work, and eleven minutes after the interval, success came. Roberts started the move, and Stephenson sent to Connelly, who made a clever dribble along the goal line, and passed for **BILLINGTON** to shoot; Swift parried but could not stop the ball, which went over the line, the referee being right on the spot.

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EXHILARATING PLAY followed. The City made fierce attempts to penetrate the Town lines, and Coen was brought into action several times, but a clear shot was next to impossible from an inside position, so well did the Town protect their goal, and the Town resumed the aggressive.

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REDFERN cracked a hard shot just wide, and Swift cleared from Carroll and

Stephenson in quick succession. A moment later the City goalkeeper evoked a tremendous burst of applause by a marvellous save from Redfern, whose grand shot seemed a goal all the way. Then he got to a shot by Finlayson, and twice Billington was edged off the ball when he was about to fire.

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FURTHER SUCCESS came twenty-four minutes after the interval. Carroll and Redfern worked a move, and inter-changing positions splendidly, they had the City defenders drawn to the right. Redfern centred, and **CONNELLY**, receiving fifteen yards out, coolly drove the ball right out of Swift's reach—a perfect goal.

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LUTON WERE NOW MASTERS, although the City continued to work pluckily. Clark headed away from Connelly when the Town were going again, and Billington flashed a shot home, but the whistle had gone for offside. However, there was further success to come. After Stephenson had made two or three clever efforts, and the ball had been turned away, Carroll went through on the right, deceived Westwood and McDowall, and then sent into the middle; Billington passed to **CONNELLY**, and the latter skilfully piloted the ball among the defenders, and eventually beat Swift with a shot just inside the upright.

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CITY MADE MORE DESPERATE efforts, but the Town defenders were still full of fight, and although Toseland and Brook each got well away and centred, Coen saved, and the Town defenders got the ball away. Stephenson made another fine effort, and beat a series of opponents, but Swift saved his shot. Toseland dashed clear and shot the ball sharply into the middle; Dreyer intercepted, and only a brilliant save by Coen prevented the centre-half putting through his own goal.

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IT WAS A SPLENDIDLY-FOUGHT GAME and although there were a few fouls, these came mainly because the City players were inclined to resent tackles, and also to do a little ankle rapping. The referee had to speak to several players, and also to one or two Luton players, but on the whole the game was a grand entertainment.

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LUTON once more touched their best in every department. Coen was not often in trouble, for his backs and halves played grandly all through the piece. If the kicking were not always true, the tackling was good, and the cover-up was splendid. Dreyer held Milsom finely, and Finlayson and Roberts did an immense amount of skilful work.

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ALL THE FORWARDS played great football, with Connelly and Redfern prominent with clever footwork, and Carroll and Stephenson being speedy and centreing well. Billington led the line capably again, and both he and Redfern had much hard luck with their shooting.

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CITY WERE WELL SERVED by Swift, who kept goal in his best style. His long reach served him in good stead often, but he could get down to the low balls, too. There was not much to choose between the backs, who kicked finely, probably better than Luton's pair in their length, but they were not so good in the tackle. McDowall was the best half, and Toseland and Brook were the pick forward.

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LUTON TOWN 3
Billington, Connelly (2)

MANCHESTER CITY 0

LUTON.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Carroll, Redfern, Billington, Connelly, Stephenson.

MANCHESTER CITY.—Swift; Clark, Westwood; Percival, Cardwell, McDowall; Toseland, Herd, Milsom, Doherty, Brook. Referee: I. H. W. Wright, Derby.