

How Luton Town Collected The Points

Coen's Grand Save In Closing Seconds

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN managed to collect both points from Burnley, visitors to Luton, on Saturday. It was a close call, for while Luton were the better side from a territorial aspect, they were so impotent in finishing off their work in midfield, that they rarely looked like getting goals.

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THE DEFENCE WAS FAIRLY SOUND. Coen had very little work, because backs and half-backs alike defended strenuously, and hampered opponents attempting to shoot. The covering up of the halves and backs was very good indeed, and had a big part in keeping the score sheet clear.

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FORWARDS WERE PRONE TO DRIBBLE the ball through the thick, sticky mud, and this was where they failed against a stout and well-balanced defence. Billington and Stephenson were most effective, but all did clever work in the open; it was at close quarters where they failed most.

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BURNLEY WERE SPLENDIDLY SERVED by their rearguard, Woodruff especially, playing a grand game. The flank halves supported their forwards well, and both wingers showed clever footwork and speed, but the inside forwards were too well covered to be able to take many shots at goal.

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AFTER A SKIRMISH by the Burnley left, the Town replied on the right; Carroll cunningly sneaked the ball through to Redfern, who was left with a clear course, and from three or four yards range he had only to beat Adams, but he sent the ball against the goalkeeper's legs, and it rebounded to safety. Carroll again gave Redfern a chance, but he could not accept it, and for a time he could do little right.

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BURNLEY WERE VERY QUICK to the tackle, and although their defence had to work hard, there was confidence and determination about their work, and Adams was safe. A spurt by Burnley looked like succeeding, for Hornby centred neatly, and Morris headed in; Coen dived and grasped the ball just in time, though whether it would have reached the net was doubtful, for it had pitched in the mud.

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REDFERN MADE SOME AMENDS when he dribbled into position and then gave Carroll, who had moved to his left, a nice pass; the partner shot finely, and the ball rose just too high a few inches outside the upright.

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BURNLEY were giving the ball plenty of boot, and there were a few exciting moments for the Town defenders, but Coen was not brought into action by any difficulty, so well did the Town backs and halves counter the moves of the visiting forwards.

PRESSURE BY THE TOWN usually fizzled out when the forwards came to close quarters with the Burnley defenders, and once Redfern took the ball through and then shot wide as the goalkeeper advanced to meet him. Burnley's raids were infrequent, but they showed good pace and control on each wing. Half-time arrived without score.

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BRIGHT PLAY straight from the kick-off evoked applause. Stephenson got the ball, and Billington raced forward, taking the ball in his stride, and firing hard and low for goal. The ball seemed bound to find the haven when Adams dived and managed to divert it, and Woodruff booted it behind.

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PLAYING UP STRONGLY, the Town gave the visiting defence little respite, and six minutes after re-starting, the Burnley goal fell. Billington, Stephenson and Connelly were concerned in the move, and the latter darted through an open space on the left, and then cracked the ball hard in front of goal. MARSHALL, in the effort to forestall Billington and Redfern, sent the ball into his own goal.

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BURNLEY RETALIATED STRONGLY, and Dreyer was penalised just inside the penalty area when he appeared to push Billingham. Only a free-kick was given however, and Coen saved the shot. Burnley had an amazing escape just afterwards. A rush by the Town concluded when the ball trickled between two defenders right to Stephenson, who was beautifully placed, but he never expected the ball, and allowed it to go behind.

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BURNLEY BEGAN TO STRUGGLE harder than ever, their flank halves playing fine football, but try as they would, they could not get in a telling shot, and Coen positioned well for everything that came his way. At the other end Billington rammed in a grand drive which Adams tipped over the bar, and he repeated the effort when Redfern fired in a splendid shot. When Burnley got away, Billingham sent behind from a good position.

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JUST BEFORE THE FINAL WHISTLE Burnley made a great effort. Hornby got clear on the left and centred finely. Brocklebank and Billingham had all the goal to aim at, but they hesitated, and Coen got to the ball somehow; then his colleagues came to the rescue, and there was a hectic scene, with a heap of players kicking and struggling on the goal-line. Coen came out of the ruck with the ball and cleared, and the game was over.

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LUTON TOWN 1
Marshall (own goal)

BURNLEY 0

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

BURNLEY.—Adams, Robinson, Marshall; Gardner, Woodruff, Bray; Taylor, Morris, Billingham, Brocklebank, Hornby.

Referee: E. V. Gough, Stoke-on-Trent.