

Magnificent Defence

Keeps 'Spurs

At Bay

(By CHILTERN)

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	0
LUTON TOWN	1
Stephenson	

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR. — Hooper; Ward, Whatley; Burgess, Hitchins, Buckingham; Sargent, Hall (G. W.), Hall (A. E.), Duncan, Tomkin.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Carroll, Redfern, Billington, Connelly, Stephenson. Referee.—F. J. Lowe, Bristol.

GEORGE STEPHENSON FILLED A ROLE he has filled many times in the past at Tottenham on Saturday—that of match-winner. His goal, obtained after 13 minutes' play, was the only score in a match that made up in excitement what it lacked in the finer points of the game.

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IN A WAY, IT WAS A REMARKABLE GOAL, for only two players touched the ball on its way from well inside the Luton half to the Tottenham net. It was Tom King who made the pass, and he came out of a tackle with the ball, and seeing Stephenson unmarked, booted it right across the field.

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STEPHENSON GOT THE BALL under control in a flash, and timing his effort to a nicety, flashed the ball low into the back of the net as Hooper came out in a desperate effort to narrow the angle.

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THAT SHOT BROUGHT LUTON BOTH POINTS, and at the same time brought them revenge for previous failures against the 'Spurs. The Town had as hard a struggle as they have had this season to keep their goal intact, for 'Spurs fought all they knew for an equaliser, only to be driven back time and again by a solid defence.

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THE DEFENCE PLAYED THE BIGGEST PART in this victory, and they stood up to terrific pressure without flinching. In both periods they had to deal with desperate attacks, but backs and half-backs alike showed magnificent spirit, and the home forwards could rarely get to close quarters.

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THEIR HARD, FIRST-TIME TACKLING worried the 'Spurs a good deal, and neither the inside men nor the wingers were given the least chance to hold the ball and make openings. The wingmen were completely smothered by King and Dunsmore, and seldom found themselves with room in which to work the ball.

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THE SAME APPLIED to the inside forwards, who were closely marked by the halves, and though the bulk of the chances fell to Hall (A. E.), he was never the master of Dreyer, who played another grand stopping game.

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THROUGHOUT THE MATCH the Town defenders made "safety first" their motto, and whenever their goal was in any danger they did not hesitate to boot the ball into the crowd. Naturally, the home

supporters did not like it, what home supporters would? However, the tactics did serve their purpose, and 'Spurs were thoroughly disheartened by the end of the match.

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THE TOTTENHAM FRONT LINE MEN must have felt that they were running into a brick wall at times, and for the most part their efforts had just the same effect. Yet they had their chances to win the match but poor finishing beat them.

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HALL (A. E.), HALL (G. W.) AND DUNCAN each failed with easy openings, and the last-named missed the opportunity of the match in the second half when he lifted the ball over the bar from a few yards' range with an empty goal facing him.

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THAT WAS ONE OF THE FEW occasions when the Luton goal looked likely to fall, and it followed a free kick taken by Ward, and missed by Coen, who was fouled as he went up for the ball.

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'SPURS HAD RATHER MORE OF THE PLAY taking the match through and through, but Luton played the better football, and their attack showed far more and far better ideas of construction. For one thing, they ran into position more intelligently than they have in the last few matches, and often had the home defenders rattled.

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WITH A BIT OF LUCK their win might have been gained by a more substantial margin for Billington had cruel luck twice. In the first half he struck the woodwork, while near the end he cracked the ball against Hooper's legs after Redfern had made a splendid opening.

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THEN THERE WAS A CASE OF HANDLING by Ward bang in the penalty area less than five minutes after the start. The referee missed the incident, and Luton appeals for a penalty went unheeded.

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THERE IS NO DOUBT that the Town earned the points. They had a pull in every department; the defence was more compact and the forwards were always the more dangerous force. Outstanding in defence were King, Dunsmore (who was undeterred by the constant booing of the spectators), and Roberts.

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NOR WERE THE OTHERS FAR BEHIND, for Finlayson, Dreyer and Coen did their share and more. Roberts had the bad luck to sustain a nasty gash on the side of the head a couple of minutes before the end. He had to leave the field, but it was too late for 'Spurs to take advantage of his absence.

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STEPHENSON AND BILLINGTON were the pick of the front line, and both did a tremendous amount of foraging. Carroll, too, did well, and made some grand centres. The inside men, Redfern and Connelly, did rather more in defence than usual, and both were most useful, although there was an inclination to attempt too much.