

Dour Bradford Stuck To Their Task And Won Through

Luton Concentrated Too Much On Defence In The Second Half

By CHILTERN

BRADFORD 2
Henson, Smith
LUTON TOWN 1
Stephenson

BRADFORD.—Farr; Lindley, Johnstone; Brown, Danskin, Stabb; Gallon, Smith, Henson, McCall, Hays.

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

Referee: M. J. A. Tucker, Nottingham.

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AFTER HOLDING Sheffield United and beating Tottenham away, LUTON TOWN'S chances against BRADFORD at Park Avenue were fancied with some degree of confidence, but, unfortunately, they did not reach the form of either of the two previous away matches, and two precious points were allowed to slip away.

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THE DOURNESS OF THE STRUGGLE is reflected in the final score, and Bradford upheld their reputation of being good fighters on their own ground. Always a difficult side to beat, they kept pegging away, and in the end I could not begrudge them their victory.

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THAT DOES NOT MEAN that Luton could not have won. Their chances came, and were missed in the first half, and Bradford saw to it that no more came their way afterwards. Actually, on the first half play, the Town should have had a lead big enough to enable them to sit tight in the second half.

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AS IT WAS, they did sit tight, although they were merely on level terms. For most of the time after the interval they devoted themselves almost entirely to defence, and to a large extent neglected attack altogether.

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ALWAYS A BAD POLICY, it did not prove successful in this instance, and although the defenders played pluckily enough, the ball kept coming back to them when the forwards should have been making use of it further up the field.

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BRADFORD WERE ALLOWED to get on top after the interval, and, gaining the confidence they had lacked previously, they kept on the offensive for most of the half. Yet despite all their pressure, they seldom looked like obtaining the winning goal, and the crowd was resigned to a draw when the goal came ten minutes from the end.

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HAD LUTON CONTINUED TO PLAY in the second half as they did in the first, I do not think they would have been beaten. At the start, they were much the better side, with the forwards playing some splendid football, and finding holes in the home defence time after time.

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REDFERN MISSED TWO CHANCES, and it was not until ten minutes from the interval that the Town did what they had been threatening for some time, and took the lead.

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THE SCORER WAS STEPHENSON, who has once more blossomed forth as a scoring winger, and for the second week in succession he found the net. He capped one of the best moves in the match with a terrific first-time shot that gave Farr no chance, Redfern and Billington did the spadework and carved out a perfect opening for the winger.

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THAT THE LEAD WAS ENJOYED for only five minutes was to some extent unlucky, for the referee allowed HENSON to go on and score when he was obviously in an offside position. The centre-forward

took a through pass in his stride and cracked the ball past Coen as he advanced.

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I THOUGHT THE REFEREE also erred when he refused Luton two penalties in the first half. One was when Johnstone handled in the penalty area, and the other when Billington was heavily charged in the back.

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THE TOWN BEGAN the second half in bright fashion, and Stephenson led the Bradford defenders a dance for a few minutes. Then the inside forwards seemed to fade away, and the home side had more and more of the play.

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COEN MADE A COUPLE of wonderful saves from Smith and Stabb, but he was powerless to save the shot by SMITH that gave Bradford both points. The important goal had a very small beginning, as they often do. Hays was given possession inside his own half, and he raced through before turning the ball inside to Smith, who hit it into the net as Coen came out.

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THAT WAS THE END as far as Luton were concerned, and although they were awarded four free kicks in quick succession, they never looked like pulling the game out of the fire in the closing stages.

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THERE WAS NOT A LOT WRONG with the defence, which had more than its rightful share of work. Coen, King and Dunsmore were all most reliable, and the goalkeeper, in particular, played an excellent game, using fine judgment in coming out for the ball. King's kicking was his weakest point, but otherwise his play was good.

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DREYER WAS PERHAPS THE BEST of the middle line, but Roberts ran him a close second. Both did a terrific amount of work, and never knew what it was to be beaten. Finlayson was somewhat below his best, but did much that was useful.

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A MISTAKE WAS MADE in not giving the wingmen more work in the second half, for each showed that they had the beating of the respective full-backs. Carroll had a splendid first half, and Stephenson was again the best of the line, but for some reason or another neither was given sufficient to do after the interval.

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THE INSIDE MEN have often played better, and there was not enough of the fighting quality about their play. Billington received few chances, and apart from that was closely marked by Danskin, so must be exempt from undue criticism. Redfern and Connelly played some pretty stuff in midfield, but were both rather easily beaten.

THE LEAGUE: DIVISION II

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Blackburn	30	18	3	9	72	44	39
Sheffield United ...	29	13	11	5	47	33	37
Sheffield Wednesday	27	15	5	7	67	43	35
Coventry	28	15	5	8	48	34	35
Fulham	28	14	7	7	46	33	35
Newcastle	29	14	5	10	47	34	33
West Bromwich ...	28	14	5	10	69	56	33
Chesterfield	28	13	6	9	47	39	32
LUTON TOWN	29	14	4	11	54	47	32
Burnley	31	12	8	11	39	40	32
Tottenham	28	11	8	9	44	40	30
West Ham	28	11	7	10	54	39	29
Manchester City ...	27	13	3	11	69	57	29
Bradford	30	10	8	12	51	63	28
Millwall	28	9	9	10	46	39	27
Bury	30	9	9	12	49	50	27
Plymouth	28	10	5	13	36	41	25
Southampton	29	9	6	14	39	54	24
Swansea	28	5	10	13	31	55	20
Notts Forest	29	6	7	16	35	69	19
Norwich	27	8	1	18	31	64	17
Tranmere	30	4	4	22	32	79	12