

Tranmere Rovers No Match For Luton Town

Three Goals Did Not Reflect True Margin Of Superiority

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN entertained the prospective wooden spoonists of the Second Division on Saturday, and the margin of three goals did not adequately represent their immense superiority over TRANMERE ROVERS. The visitors played pluckily right to the end, but they were always battling against a better equipped and more workmanlike combination, and, had the score been trebled, it would not have exaggerated the disparity between the teams.

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LEWIS KEPT GOAL WELL for the visitors, and his backs and centre-half also did much good work, but, after the first half-hour, the forwards were seldom in the picture, and Coen had not one difficult shot to stop. King and Dunsmore, with Dreyer stopping up the middle, proved a formidable defence, and Roberts and Finlayson were in fine form at flank half.

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BURGESS MADE A VERY SUCCESSFUL DEBUT in League football, and Stephenson also was in form. Billington was not so assertive as usual, but Connolly and Redfern displayed amazing skill in their dribbling, passing and scheming, and, had the whole of the forwards gone out for goals all the time, they must have had a big score.

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PLAY OPENED FAIRLY EVENLY, with the visitors making raids by swinging the ball about well, and keeping their wingers engaged. Roy and Thomas each got across good centres, but the inside forwards were either forestalled or they shot well wide of the mark, and Coen was never brought into action to a serious shot.

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THE TOWN FORWARDS showed pace and good judgment in their approach work, but were apt to hang on to the ball when they should have taken shots, and the Rovers packed their goal well. Lewis was fortunate to see a couple of shots from Stephenson out of focus, but the pressure became more insistent, and, after two or three appeals for penalty-kicks against the visitors had been passed unheeded, the Town took the lead.

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A FREE KICK was given right on the penalty line, and Stephenson fired in a terrific shot which flashed right away from the helpless Lewis, and landed in the farther end of the net. After a quick raid to the other end had been dealt with, Lewis was again in action, and there were

many struggles almost under his nose, but the finishing of the Town lacked enterprise and promptitude.

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ROBERTS ADDED THE SECOND GOAL four minutes before the change of ends. There had been an intense attack, in which the goal had escaped two or three times, and the ball came out of a ruck of players for Roberts to take it in his stride, and crash home a grand shot which again left the goalkeeper powerless to save, and, at the interval, the score was:

LUTON TOWN	2
TRANMERE ROVERS	0

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THE TOWN HAD virtually all the play in the second half, but they still failed to force home their attacks, although Lewis was lucky to see several shots from close range misdirected. Again and again, the Town inside forwards opened up attacks that were carried through by beautiful passing, but Lewis and his colleagues managed to get in the way of all that looked like scoring.

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STEPHENSON twice had hard shots blocked, and Billington was unlucky when the ball did not run true for him as he was taking a shot. Connolly made the crowd roar with his quaint tricks and his skilful use of the ball, but it was to little purpose when the ball came in front of the Rovers' goal, where the defenders managed to scramble it clear.

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BURGESS AND STEPHENSON each put across very fine centres that were diverted, but it was from a clever movement on the Town right wing that the third goal came. Redfern sent Burgess through, and he got the better of Jones on the goal-line, and then passed in front of goal; BILLINGTON managed to squeeze the ball past Lewis as the goalkeeper tackled.

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THREE TIMES in the five minutes that remained for play the lead was nearly increased. Billington twice going close, but the Rovers held on grimly, and there was no further score.

LUTON TOWN	3
Stephenson, Roberts, Billington	
TRANMERE ROVERS	0

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Burgess, Redfern, Billington, Connolly, Stephenson.
TRANMERE ROVERS.—Lewis; Obrey, Jones; Davis, Walkden, Flowers; Thomas Travis, Buckley, Cassidy, Roy.
Referee.—B. Ames, Redditch.