

Town Take Revenge For A Home Defeat

Snap Second Half Goal Earns Point At West Ham

(By CHILTERN)

WEST HAM 0
LUTON TOWN 1

WEST HAM. — Medhurst; Bicknell, Walker (C); Corbett, Walker (R), Cockroft; Foxall, Macaulay, Small, Goulden, Morton.

LUTON TOWN.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Burgess, Redfern, Vinall, Connelly, Stephenson.
Referee.—G. Dutton, Warwick.

WEST HAM ARE ONE OF THREE TEAMS who have beaten LUTON at Kenilworth-road this season, but the Town took adequate revenge for that defeat at Upton Park on Saturday. A goal by Redfern 13 minutes after the interval was sufficient to give them both points.

THAT WAS THE ONLY SCORE in a rather drab match in which both teams were troubled by the light ball, which was inclined to do tricks on the hard ground. The match was marred, too, by an injury to Morton, the Hammers' outside-left, who had to leave the field ten minutes before the interval, and did not return.

UNDER THIS HANDICAP, the Hammers did well to hold Luton to a goal, and there were times in the second half when they attacked intensely, and, although a goal to them was seldom likely, they could not be criticised on the grounds of not trying.

THIS WAS ANOTHER VICTORY for which the defence must take most credit, and, once again, the hard tackling and smart covering by backs and halves played a big part in the success.

AT TIMES, THEY WERE INCLINED to over-robustness, and were quite frequently penalised for fouls, but there was nothing of an objectionable nature, and their barracking by sections of the crowd were unjustified.

THE CROWD WERE PROBABLY SMARTING under the blow of the loss of Morton, but there could have been no doubt in the minds of any that his injury was a pure accident. He and King went up for a high ball in perfectly fair fashion, and Morton fell and wrenched his knee.

THEY WERE NOT PUT IN a better temper by the poor quality of the football, nor by the number of times the Town defenders kicked the ball out of play in the second half. They could scarcely have been expected to have condoned these tactics, but Luton were playing "safety first," and were successful.

AFTER THEY SCORED, Luton were content to keep out the Hammers without making any really serious attempts to increase their lead. They succeeded to such an extent that only twice after the interval did the Hammers seem likely to score.

TOWARDS THE END, Luton did begin to press again, and Redfern was very unlucky with a header that struck the bar, while Vinall nearly deceived Medhurst with a high shot.

THE GOAL ITSELF IS WORTH DESCRIBING. It was one of those quick, clear-cut affairs, and Connelly began the move with a hard pass to Stephenson. The winger shot out his foot, and the ball flashed down the middle to RED-FERN, who slipped between the backs,

and had the ball in the net in a trice.

THERE WERE APPEALS for offside, but, to me, these had very rocky foundations, and the referee had no hesitation in pointing to the centre of the field. Previously, there had been few shots at either end that looked likely to bring goals. Notable exceptions were one from Connelly that hit the bar, and one from Redfern that Medhurst saved well.

WHILE THE HAMMERS were at full strength, there was very little between the teams, but Luton did rather more of the attacking before the interval, and were quicker on the ball throughout.

ALTHOUGH THE FORWARDS were not quite at their best, they were a more dangerous force than the Hammers, who were slow and ponderous in attack. Redfern was the best of the Town forwards, and he played with something like his old confidence.

CONNELLY, TOO, did finely, while Vinall, deputising for Billington, was a terrific worker. The wingers, Burgess and Stephenson, did not get the best of support, and were too closely watched to be effective.

DREYER HAD ANOTHER GRAND MATCH, and he completely subdued Small, and afterwards mastered Foxall when he moved into the middle. Finlayson, too, had a lot to do with the success, and Roberts improved a lot after a rather shaky first half.

KING AND DUNSMORE were two hard-tackling, give-no-quarter backs, and very little got past them. While he was on the field, Morton could make no impression on King, while Dunsmore shut out Foxall. Coen did not have a busy time, but dealt capably with all that came his way.