

Luton Win Again

Clever Forwards But Moderate Marksmen

(By CRUSADER)

BURY'S VISIT TO LUTON ended according to public fancy, but there were a few flutters before the points were landed, though not so much because of the quality of the opposition, as because of the old failing of the Town forwards, who persistently manoeuvred in midfield and held the ball very close when open play would have been more profitable.

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DISPARITY between the teams was more strongly marked in the second half, when the Bury defenders were kept at full stretch for long periods, and when there were usually seven or eight players concentrated in their penalty area to hold up the Town attacks. Marksmanship of the Town forwards was not so good as it should have been, and granted that Bradshaw had a fair share of good fortune, nevertheless there should have been many more goals.

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DESPITE THIS, and the weather conditions, which were as bad as they have been at Luton at any time this season, the football was very clever, and the Town inside forwards made most of the entertainment, some of the dribbling and combination being of the highest standard, and both Redfern and Connelly did amazing things, even if they carried the solo work too far on occasion.

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THE LINE allied speed to skill, and would certainly have had more goals had they not tried to get through by close play too often, for with the Bury defenders congregated in the penalty area, it was difficult to find an opening for a clear shot, whereas there were gaps on the wings. Stephenson took his chances very well, but had little luck with his shots, and Burgess might have done better with his if he had not been so deliberate. The attack as a whole, however, was vastly superior to that of the visitors.

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FINLAYSON AND ROBERTS were powerful halves, and Dreyer was a tower of strength at centre-half, and again pleased the crowd by his earnestness and often by his skill, for he is using the ball much better than ever before. King and Dunsmore were sound, and the latter again showed what a class player he is, and Coen had a very easy time, for he accepted the ball more from his own players than from those of the opposition.

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BRADSHAW KEPT GOAL splendidly for the visitors, making brilliant saves, particularly in the second half, and Hart, Henderson and Halton offered stubborn resistance, kicking and tackling strongly, and never yielding without a tussle. Of the visiting forwards, however, little was seen after the first half-hour, when Roberts and Kilshaw had been virtually mastered by the Town backs.

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SNOW was sweeping across the field when the players turned out. Bury soon got away, and Coen had to handle. Roberts and Connelly were prominent, and a hot assault on the Bury goal looked promising, but the first shot of any note was from Connelly, and it lifted just over the bar—a capital attempt. Bury replied, and gained a couple of corners, but they were soon forced back to the defensive.

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NOW AND THEN BURY RAIDED on the wings, but did not get in a dangerous effort, whereas the Town forwards were often dangerous, but they kept the ball very close when they tried to bore through, and Bury's backs were sturdy enough to

resist the pressure. Vinall made a splendid effort when he hurried to overtake a long ball by Dunsmore, and he beat Hart and Bradshaw for possession, but the ball stole just wide of the goal.

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BURY'S GOAL had a few escapes, but the defenders stuck to their work grimly, and they had some reward and a tonic when their forwards got away and opened the scoring. Kilshaw beat King cleverly after a long run, and sent the ball perfectly across the goalmouth, ROBERTS racing in to head into the net—a grand goal.

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THE TOWN PLAYED up strongly after this, and repeatedly attacked, but they could not make much impression on the Bury defence. Bradshaw had to save often, and he was very safe. Stephenson and Redfern each went close, and Roberts and Finlayson also joined in shooting. Nearing the interval, the Town attacked fiercely, and after a hard struggle in the penalty area, REDFERN got possession among a ruck of players, and lobbed the ball into the net well away from Bradshaw. Half-time:

LUTON	1
BURY	1

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BURY WENT AWAY from the re-start, and King and Kilshaw were down together on the edge of the penalty area, but Dreyer was on the spot and cleared, and the visitors were not dangerous again for a long time. The Town forwards played entertaining football, and again and again forced their way through, but despite the numerous centres that came into the goalmouth the Bury defenders were always in the way, and Bradshaw was capable of dealing with any shot.

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SEVERAL CORNERS were forced, and Redfern, Stephenson, Connelly and Vinall all went close with good tries, while Bradshaw made a grand save from Stephenson. It was nearly all Luton, for the visitors, when they broke away, usually were jockeyed into offside positions. Bradshaw and his backs were reinforced by the inside forwards, and it was obvious that the visitors were anxious to save a point.

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CONNELLY, however, spoiled their prospects when he scored a neat goal. There was a rush up the middle by Roberts, and then the inside forwards and Stephenson all came into the argument with two or three defenders. It seemed as though the movement had been arrested, but Connelly managed to secure the ball, veered to the left, and then shot a fine goal.

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FOR THE REMAINDER of the game the Town were almost continuously attacking. Now and then the visitors made a move on the wings, but they were never able to get near enough to Coen to cause him much anxiety. The only save of note the Town goalkeeper made in the second half was when he fisted away a free-kick, and the rather moderate spells of excitement came at the other end, where Bradshaw did a lot of work extremely well.

LUTON TOWN	2
BURY	1

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

BURY.—Bradshaw; Hart, Henderson; Jones, Holton, Aston; Roberts Davies, McNeill, Dougal, Kilshaw.

Referee: E C Carnwell, Lichfield.