

LUTON'S MARGIN SHOULD HAVE BEEN INCREASED

Brilliance Of Connelly And Redfern

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN 2
Redfern, Connelly

BURY 1
Roberts

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

BURY: Bradshaw; Hart, Henderson; Jones, Halton, Aston; Roberts, Davies (G.), McNeill, Dougal, Kilshaw.

Referee: E. C. Carnwell, Lichfield.

Luton Town have a chance of promotion, and it was improved by their victory over Bury. The chance would have been gilded, however, if they had shown more scoring power, and I am quite sure that on the run of the play they should have gone very near double figures, so much the better of the game had they.

Considering the wretched weather conditions, I think both teams merited a pat on the back for the good spirit in which the game was played. With something akin to a blizzard sweeping across the field from end to end, it was quite wonderful that none of the players should become testy and lose his temper. Such infringements as there were came about through enthusiasm and insecure foothold on the treacherous turf, and not because any of the players wished to harm another, and I do not think there was a really serious foul during the match.

CRAFTSMEN

From the aspect of craftsmanship I am becoming more and more convinced that we have two of the cleverest artists in the League in Redfern and Connelly.

There were times when they did the most extraordinary feats with the ball, although, all too often for our liking, they overdid this sort of thing, and that was why there was more midfield entertainment than goal scoring; and



whether we like to admit or not, when there is a chance for promotion we do like to see goals.

The line as a whole, however, did much really brilliant work, the passing being accurate, and the ball being kept down in the most stylish fashion, and there were moves and manoeuvres, during which every player of the Town attack had the ball without a Bury player being able to get at it. Alas, however, it did not reach the objective as we should have liked, and the whole of the attack must take responsibility for this.

A WORD ON BURGESS

The two inside wingers were superb in their entertainment, Vinall also did many very fine things, and Stephenson maintained the high standard and the energy he has shown during the last three months. Burgess was not quite so successful as we should have liked, and perhaps the conditions did not quite suit his deliberate style, but he needs to make amendment in getting the ball over quickly and more squarely, for all too often the ball either sailed into the arms of the goalkeeper, or was

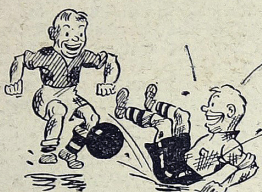
pulled behind the waiting colleagues. Still Burgess did many bright things, and should retain his place.

HALF-BACK SERVICE

To a very large extent I placed the credit for keeping the Town on the attack so much to the splendid work of Finlayson and Roberts.

Their tackling was so sure, and their distribution of the ball also was very good indeed, and they moved up to support the attack very quickly. In the second half, especially, was this noticeable, and it was a pleasure to watch the assurance of the halves and forwards as they combined. All we wanted to be quite happy was better marksmanship, quicker and more prompt shooting, with some powder behind the ball.

In the rear Dreyer was as good as



ever, and his judgment in positioning was all too much for McNeill, who never had a real chance during the game. Dreyer is making speedy improvement, and there is much more confidence in the rear now than there was a few weeks ago.

King had a teasy job to hold Kilshaw, but did his bit well, and Dunsmore was a great defender, quick in recovery, with strong and sure tackling, and fine length kicking. With these three so good it was not surprising that Coen had so little to do. Other than the scoring header with which he had no chance, he had but one anxious moment, and that was when he punched away a free kick late in the second half.

BURY'S BEST

Bury earned kudos by their sterling defence. Bradshaw kept goal finely, and made a lot of grand saves. He had a good sense of position, and many shots that were aimed at a point farthest away from him came safely into his arms because he moved to the right spot quickly.

Hart was a fine back, and Henderson filled the other position worthily, while Halton, playing for the first time at centre-half, did a lot of hard work, and moved very quickly, too. I should think this former forward would develop into a first-class pivot, for he has the physique, and he can play football with it. The flank halves worked hard, but were often beaten by the skilful manoeuvres of Redfern and Connelly.

Early in the game both Roberts and Kilshaw showed mettle, and took a lot of holding, but after they had scored a closer grip was kept on them, and gradually the Bury attack faded almost completely from the picture.

They were all triers, and had the Town defenders not kept on the alert it is conceivable that Bury would have given Coen a lot more trouble.

THE GOALS

I thought the Town defenders were a bit lax when Bury scored their goal. King allowed Kilshaw to run a long way with the ball, and kept pace with him and yet did not tackle him, so the winger got over a perfect centre, and ROBERTS was unattended and had a clear chance of which he took toll.

The Town made repeated assaults, but did not shoot well, though Stephenson made good efforts, but the inside forwards were prone to try and walk the ball right into the goal before they took a shot. The equalising goal by RED-FERN was the outcome of a sharp move by the inside forwards, with Finlayson doing the initiatory work, and Bradshaw had no chance with the shot that was lobbed right away from him.

The second half was very nearly a continuous assault by the Town, and for long stretches the ball was not out of Bury's half, but the defence never relaxed, and it began to look as though the Town would not get another. However, after very good work by Roberts and Stephenson, the former especially, Redfern, Vinall and Connelly, with Stephenson close up to them, had a severe tussle with the opposition inside the penalty area. The ball came out at the feet of CONNELLY, who quickly took position and then shot accurately, and Bradshaw had no chance.

There should have been more goals after this, but the shooting was either poor or unlucky, and the end came with everyone satisfied with the result, if not with the margin of goals.

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