

Luton Town Deserved A Better Fate At Sheffield

Forwards, Good In Midfield, Again Lacked Finishing Powers

By CHILTERN

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY..... 4

Hunt (pen.), Fallon, Robinson, Toseland

LUTON TOWN 1

Finlayson

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.—Smith; Ashley, Catlin; Russell, Hanford, Burrows; Toseland, Robinson, Hunt, Napier, Fallon.

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

Referee.—W. P. Harber, Stourbridge.

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SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY become the second team to complete the double over Luton Town this season, but the Town put up a very good show, and scarcely deserved to be beaten. In fact, for long periods, they were the better team, but the forwards did not make the most of their chances.

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THE GAME OPENED on a sensational note, for after only three minutes, the Wednesday were awarded a penalty for hands against Dreyer. There could have been few of the 30,000 spectators who felt that the award was merited, for the centre-half was not an intentional offender.

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IT SEEMED TO ME that he had no more idea that the ball was going to be handled than anyone in the crowd. The ball simply bounced up sharply as he went to trap it, and struck him on the arm. There was no Wednesday player near him, and to me, at least, it was a surprise when the referee pointed to the spot.

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THE SHEFFIELD MARKSMAN number one, HUNT, was entrusted with the kick, and he banged the ball past Coen into the corner of the net. To be a goal down in the opening minutes in such circumstances was the worst possible blow that Luton could have had, and few could have blamed them if they had become completely unsettled.

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ON THE CONTRARY, however, they began to play in confident style, and within two minutes had obtained the equaliser. FINLAYSON was the scorer, with a low cross shot that went right away from Smith. Russell made an attempt to kick away, but was beaten by the pace of the ball.

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AFTER THAT, Luton more or less dictated the play. Almost every home attack was quickly checked by the intelligent use of offside tactics. On the other hand, the home defenders found the Town forwards a lively lot, and Smith was provided with plenty of employment, though it was mainly of the long range sort.

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THEN, AFTER 33 MINUTES, the Wednesday broke away, and gained an undeserved success through FALLON, who made a long run, chased by King, and got in a shot that struck the underside of the bar, and bounced into the net, although the angle looked far too acute for a scoring shot to be delivered.

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AT HALF-TIME, there were many who

were willing to admit that the Wednesday were fortunate to be in the lead, and we were unprepared for the change that came over the game in the early part of the second half.

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WHAT HAPPENED during the interval, I do not know, but the Wednesday produced some brilliant football in the first ten minutes of the second half. The forwards came out of their shell with a vengeance, and for the first time looked like a line that is worth a huge sum in the transfer market.

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ROBINSON WAS THE GENIUS, and he began to hold the ball and take it through himself, thus defeating the offside trap. In the first few minutes he missed a simple chance, but after five minutes, capped a great dribble with a shot that gave Coen no chance

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A MINUTE AFTERWARDS, he got through again and crashed the ball inches over the bar. The Town defence was run off its feet, and TOSELAND finally settled the issue after ten minutes with an easy goal after Fallon had centred from what looked like an offside position.

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THAT DONE, the Wednesday fell away again, and for the remainder of the game Luton did quite as much of the pressing. The main trouble was that the forwards, though clever in midfield, could not round off their work, and Smith was never in any real trouble.

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HE HAD TO DEAL with several well-directed long shots, mostly from Finlayson and Roberts, but had little to save at close range. Apart from that, he was well covered by a sound defence, in which Catlin and Hanford did fine work.

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OF THE LUTON FORWARDS, Connelly was the pick, and was prominent with some very clever play. Stephenson has played better many times this season, and could never wholly lose the attentions of Ashley. Yet the left wing was better than the right, where Redfern spoilt a lot of his work by over-elaboration, and Stevens was never happy.

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VINALL PUT IN ALL HE KNEW, and kept the line together in good style, but he had few shots of any consequence. However, the support he received was not of the best, and too many high passes reached him.

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FOUR GOALS ON THE WRONG SIDE looks bad for the defence, but actually they did not have a bad day. One goal came from a penalty, and two more were scored in the spell in which everything went the Wednesday's way.

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THERE WAS NOTHING WRONG with the half-backs, and Dreyer was the master of Hunt, who had few chances. Finlayson and Roberts were constantly driving on the attack, and did well in defence, too. Dunsmore was a little better than King, who, however, had quite a good match, while Coen could not be blamed, and made some first-class saves.