

SOUTHAMPTON SOAKED FOR SIX

Billington Returns To Collect A Treble

(By CRUSADER)

LUTON TOWN	6
Billington 3, Redfern 2 (1 pen), Connelly	
SOUTHAMPTON	2
Tomlinson, Bevis	

LUTON.—Coen; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Dreyer, Roberts; Carroll, Redfern, Billington, Connelly, Stephenson.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Warhurst; Perfect, Emanuel; Parkin, Chalk, Brophy; Bevis, Bates (E. T.), Tomlinson, Briggs, Hill. Referee.—L. Brown, Barnes.

Southampton played their traditional game. They did not deserve to be beaten so heavily on the run of play, perhaps, but they were not so near Luton in the matter of craftsmanship and pure football skill as the four goals margin. Had the Town forwards continued to struggle for goals in the second half as they did before the change over, they could have reached double figures quite comfortably.

The superiority of the Town in the finer points of the game was indisputable, and if their finishing had been a little nearer the perfect standard, many more goals would have accrued.

HEAVY GROUND

The ground was very heavy at the Oak-road end, but better at the other end. Roberts won the toss, and defended the Oak-road end.

The Town were soon on the attack, and within a minute Finlayson raced forward to receive from the left and drove at goal, the ball passing a foot wide. The "Saints'" defence was strong, and kicked hard, and Bevis came into action with a nippy run and centre which was repelled by Dreyer, but they came again on the left and Bevis closed in to shoot hard, Coen going down to save at full length.

A moment later Coen had to take a shot from Briggs, and then the Town left got going as the result of fine work by Dunsmore, but Perfect cleared. Finlayson was prominent, and sent Carroll and Redfern through, and Billington slipped the ball cleverly to the latter, but he could not get the right aim, and the ball passed wide.

CONNELLY'S CLEVER GOAL

Then Connelly and Stephenson, backed by Roberts, came into the picture, and the ball dropped in the goal-mouth, but Warhurst got it away. Then Connelly was seen working through on the right, and he shot well, Billington allowing the ball to go between his legs, and it was just wide.

The Town hammered away, Finlayson and Redfern again being conspicuous for good work, and Finlayson surprised the opposition by lifting the ball across to CONNELLY, who had cut into the goal-mouth, and he steered the ball cleverly out of the reach of Warhurst to put the Town ahead.

Southampton did not take this lying down. Tomlinson, using his bulk to some purpose, harried the Town defence, and he bored right through; Coen rushed from goal as the centre-forward shot, and the ball went harmlessly past the upright.

BILLINGTON'S TURN

The Town left again made progress and Warhurst ran and kicked the ball hard against Stephenson, and it rebounded behind. Dunsmore was penalised, but the free kick was cleared, and then the Town went ahead further after a brilliant attack in which all the Town forwards took part. Four times in quick succession Warhurst parried drives from close range, but BILLINGTON seized and shot hard into the net, this being after 28 minutes.

QUICK GOALS

Back again came the Town, and there was a loud appeal for a penalty when Billington was tripped right in front of goal, but the referee allowed play to proceed. However, the Town right came, and Carroll and Redfern

beat the opposition, and the latter's pass was knocked down by Perfect, and a penalty kick was awarded. REDFERN made no error with the kick, and the Town were three up in 30 minutes.

The Town maintained the aggressive, and Stephenson sent behind after a fine run. Southampton hit back, Bevis getting clear to miss narrowly with a hard shot, though Coen was in attendance. Tomlinson failed just afterwards when he was given a chance, and the Town replied with a successful move. The left wing made the advance, and there was a quick succession of shots before BILLINGTON again beat the opposition and shot a splendid goal as he was fouled by Brophy. The referee apparently took Brophy's name, and he spoke to him before consulting the linesman.

When Billington had received attention he resumed and was quickly on the mark, but Warhurst saved, and when Stephenson sent the ball across again Finlayson shot wide. More good play on the Town left brought a corner to Stephenson, and he placed the flag-kick finely, REDFERN heading the fifth goal.

Half-time:

LUTON	5
SOUTHAMPTON	0

Luton at once attacked on the restart, and Redfern put just wide, and Billington shot over when a pass to the left would have been advisable, for Stephenson was unattended. Then came another brilliant and successful move. Connelly skipped out to the right wing when Carroll had been stopped, and he centred perfectly for BILLINGTON to beat Warhurst again amidst tremendous applause.

This was three minutes after the restart, and it was all Luton for a long time. The visitors could make little headway save by hard booting of the ball and trying to rush the Town defence. Carroll and Stephenson forced corners, and Warhurst made many saves, while Redfern headed wide and Billington shot over.

COEN SURPRISED

Eight minutes after the restart, however, the visitors were successful when they least looked likely to score. TOMLINSON suddenly shot from near the touch line; it was probably meant for a centre; Coen started for the ball too late, and was evidently taken by surprise, for the ball screwed off his hands and into the net.

Roberts won applause for clever work, and then Stephenson was only just wide with a fine effort. Clever play by Redfern and Carroll brought another centre, and Billington lifted the ball over.

More corners followed, and Roberts once shot high over, the ball dropping on top of the stand.

"SAINTS" AGAIN

Twenty minutes after the interval the visitors were successful again, Tomlinson again being the chief mover. He went through on the right and centred finely for BEVIS, who had moved across, to race in and head past Coen.

Dunsmore was fortunate that a penalty was not awarded against him just afterwards, and the duels between him and Bevis were becoming rather hectic. The Town still held the upper hand, but the forwards were not closing in on goal so efficiently as in the first half. Billington forced a corner and headed over from the flag-kick. Redfern and Carroll each had shots which went wide, and Warhurst saved several hard drives from various sources.

Briggs missed badly when Bevis went away and centred, and then the Town went back for Warhurst to save a header from Billington. A quick rush by the visitors looked bad for Coen, but he made a grand save at full length, and just afterwards the whistle went.

Attendance, 15,946; receipts, £901 6s.