

Stout Defence Prevails Against Bombardment

Why Millwall Took A Point From Luton

By CHILTERN

LUTON TOWN'S PROMOTION HOPES paled into insignificance when they failed to beat **MILLWALL ATHLETIC** at Luton on Saturday. The game was played in the presence of the second largest crowd of the season, and excitement was maintained at a high pitch among the Luton supporters, because the team for nearly all the time was on the attack.

MILLWALL'S GOAL had numerous escapes, and again and again Yuill made saves without knowing very clearly where the ball had gone. His backs were reinforced by forwards and flank halves, the main objective of the visitors evidently being to prevent Luton winning, and their forwards had very few chances to attack, let alone to score.

SMITH, WILLIAMS AND CHIVERTON played remarkably well, and Forsyth was a rare grafter, but little was seen of the forwards, and practically all the time Millwall had eight players concerned with the immediate protection of their goal. This was so in the second half as well as in the first, for the Town had initial advantage of the wind, though it was not an advantage at all to them, often spoiling passes and shots.

LUTON'S DEFENCE was sound as ever, and gave every possible assistance to the attack. The Millwall forwards were completely mastered by King, Dreyer, and Dunsmore, when Finlayson and Roberts left them anything to do. The two flank halves played brilliantly. In the attack, Redfern was probably the most dangerous, for Billington was well watched, and Connelly and Redfern alike did many clever things. Carroll did a few tricks, but had more of the ball than Stephenson, and the latter would have been much more effective if he had been better supplied.

WINNING THE TOSS, the Town had to fall back against a rush from the kick-off, and Coen picked up and cleared. The Town forwards got through, and Billington had a half-chance from Stephenson's pass, but the ball rose awkwardly, and Yuill managed to take it, though he half lost it, only to recover and clear.

YUILL WAS KEPT IN ACTION, first Dunsmore and then King lifting the ball well forward, and the goalkeeper had to come out. Smith handled a yard or two outside the penalty area, but Stephenson's shot was off the mark. Then came Millwall's second best chance of the match. Dreyer and Dunsmore each could not control the bouncing ball, and Walsh went through, but he scraped the ball well wide.

THEN IT WAS NEARLY ALL LUTON right to the interval. Attacks were launched as often as the ball was cleared. Centres came from either wing, and many corners were forced. Redfern shot in hard, and Yuill thumped the ball over the bar. Dunsmore took part in attacks, and Finlayson and Roberts were always up in the Millwall half. Stephenson struck the top of the upright with a hard drive, and Billington shot wide just afterwards. Connelly headed just wide

and Carroll shot wide, and then the latter slipped the defence, and ran in to shoot as Yuill ran out; the ball beat the goalkeeper, but struck the post, and rebounded across the goal to be kicked into touch.

AGAIN THE MILLWALL goal escaped when Dunsmore worked well up towards the penalty area, and then drove in a lovely shot which found an avenue through a crowd of players, and struck the upright to rebound to safety before the goalkeeper had seen it.

MILLWALL'S BEST CHANCE came just afterwards when Dreyer tried to dribble round Rawlings, and was robbed. The winger put the ball to Walsh, who was unmarked in front of goal; Coen dashed out, and the centre-forward lifted the ball high over the goal. This was a very bad mistake.

LUTON WERE SOON SWARMING round the Millwall goal again, and there they remained almost to the change of ends. There were frequent tussles in the Millwall penalty area, and right in the goal area, but they struggled nobly did the Millwall defenders, and were glad to hear the whistle sound the interval without a goal.

LUTON ATTACKED almost incessantly for half an hour after change of ends. Corner after corner was forced, but direct shots were few. King once dallied in getting the ball away with the result that Osman, well out towards the touch-line, got in a shot or a centre, and Coen stood by the post and saw the ball strike the top of the upright and go behind.

CONNELLY, Redfern and Stephenson in turn dribbled through, and tried to give Billington a pass, but the visitors crowded their goal and penalty area, and, although Yuill had some tough moments, he managed to keep his lines clear. Once the ball was knocked out of his grasp by Billington, and the latter managed to get his foot to it, and send it goalwards, but the wind held it just long enough for a clearance to be made.

STEPHENSON, Redfern and Carroll all had shots blocked at close range, and there were again hard struggles in the Millwall goalmouth, while Yuill brought off several fine saves when the ball was shot high, as it usually was. In a fierce assault shortly before the close, it seemed as if the Millwall goal must fall, but it survived an intense struggle, and, later, a shot from Billington struck the goalkeeper, and rebounded to be kicked away.

LUTON dominated the play to the end and they should have won by a big margin on the run of the play.

LUTON TOWN 0

MILLWALL ATHLETIC 0

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

MILLWALL ATH.—Yuill; Smith, Williams; Daniels, Chiverton, Forsyth, Rawlings, Richardson, Walsh, Barker, Osman.

Referee.—S. E. Law, West Bromwich.