

Luton Lose Last Match

Defensive Errors And Weak Finishing

(By CRUSADER)

COVENTRY CITY came to LUTON on Saturday, and accomplished a performance similar to that of last year. They put up a rugged defence, and then, by snatching goals in raids, they collared the points. The result was a sheer travesty of the run of the game, but the strength of the visitors in defence was the decisive factor.

* * *

FOR PERIODS of five to ten minutes at a stretch, the Town forwards and halves were dominating the play, and they were much the more scientific side, but there was too much close play against a defence that was well packed, and not enough close play in defence. The front of goal was almost neglected at times, and there was little or no understanding between Strathie and the other defenders.

* * *

MAYBERRY had no chance with the goals against him largely because he had no protection, but he did not have half a dozen shots to save. King and Dunsmore were playing well to the wings, as they should do these days, but Strathie was not in position when the backs were beaten. Finlayson and Roberts again played finely, and, of the forwards, it could be said that all did well, though playing much too close.

* * *

COVENTRY were a goal up in the first minute. Ashall got through on the right, and centred for LAGER to take the ball in his stride, and run on to shoot into the net with a beautiful ground shot. Open play by the visitors led to more trouble for the Town defence, and Ashall and Coen each had tries that were afforded by swift and wide-passing movements.

* * *

GRADUALLY, THE TOWN took the upper hand, and it was almost a continuous pressure on the visitors' goal. Morgan saved comfortably whenever a shot was on the target. Clamours for penalties were made two or three times, and Billington was hooked up sharp when he was about to shoot, but the referee heeded not the appeals.

* * *

SAVE FOR AN OCCASIONAL RAID by the visiting wingers, the Town did all the attacking, and the City defenders were kept hard at it, conceding corners and finding touch persistently. The best shot from a Town player came just before the interval when Billington slipped past Mason, and rammed in a grand shot, but the goalkeeper brought off a splendid save. Half-time :

LUTON TOWN 0

COVENTRY 1

THE TOWN

THE TOWN at once attacked on the restart, but they could not find the target, and, despite repeated efforts, they found the way solidly blocked. Then came a raid by the visitors' right wing, and, although the ball was partly cleared, it went out to the right, and COEN promptly took possession, and shot successfully to put the visitors further ahead.

* * *

AGAIN AND AGAIN the Town forwards seemed certain to score, but they persisted in dribbling another yard or two, and invariably lost the ball before they could get in a shot, though Morgan had to save from all the forwards in turn. Then came another successful raid by the visitors, and the ball was whipped over from the right as Mayberry ran out, and there was none to prevent LAGER taking it, and shooting into the empty goal.

* * *

DOGGEDLY, THE TOWN continued to provide bright football, and there were many clever moves, but Morgan kept his lines intact, until there was a little mix-up just outside the penalty area, and STEPHENSON hit the ball on the volley, and it flew into the net for a brilliant goal. Had the other forwards taken chances as promptly, the Town would not have been in arrears long.

* * *

RIGHT TO THE END of the story, the Town dominated the play, and the game became very rough, several players being spoken to, and one or two having to receive attention. Connelly struck the bar with a fine effort, and Stephenson, Billington, and Redfern all tested Morgan, while Mason and his backs blocked many shots.

* * *

LUTON TOWN	1
Stephenson	
COVENTRY CITY	3
Lager (2), Coen	

LUTON TOWN. — Mayberry; King, Dunsmore; Finlayson, Strathie, Roberts; Burgess, Redfern, Billington, Connelly, Stephenson.

COVENTRY.—Morgan; Astley, Elliott; Frith, Mason, Boileau; Ashall, Green, Crawley, Lager, Coen.

Referee.—G. C. Denton, Northampton.