

LUTON SEE STARS: RAMS' TEAM WORK

*"What a combination!
We shall be slaughtered
at the Baseball Ground."*

Luton Town supporters said this to me (writes our special correspondent) after Derby County's 6-0 triumph in the Cup-tie on Saturday before a record Luton crowd.

The Rams had given them a lesson in football that they will never forget, they said. Although their team was slaughtered these Luton "fans" were full of admiration for the wonderful performance given by the Derby forwards.

Forwards Superb

Five minutes after the start the result was inevitable. Luton were never in the same class as Derby County, who played exactly as they chose—surprisingly fast in the mud—and for most of the game had the Luton players running round in circles.

The Rams' forwards were superb. Individualism—an ominous word when related to football—was completely absent. Each goal was the result of clever, unselfish team work, with the forward in the best position finishing off the concerted movement of brilliant scheming and complete understanding.

Doherty was the architect of victory. He was hard-working, inspiring, dazzling. Several times when in front of the goal he passed to a colleague who was in a better position to score.

Why Stamps Got Four

I do not want to detract from Stamps's grand performance—he did all that was asked of him and more, and he was always in the right place at the right time—but he scored his four goals because he took the perfect openings that were made for him.

Morrison, switched from centre-forward to outside-left through Duncan's injury, bewildered the Luton right back with his speed. He repeatedly flashed along the touchline only to see his centres saved by Duke or smothered and scrambled away by the backs. It is a mystery how he found such speed in the wretched underfoot conditions.

When in a favourable position Carter sent in several terrific shots, but for the most part he

played a delightfully constructive game. His close passes and tricks repeatedly spreadeagled the defence and left the goal wide open.

Genius of Sammy

Engineered by Doherty, executed by Carter, and finished off by Stamps—that was the formula for most of Derby's goals.

Despite the brilliance of the other four forwards, Sammy Crooks was far from outshone. Opposing him was Dunsmore, the best back on the field, who not only carried his colleagues but who seemed determined to "blot out" Sammy. Crooks outwitted all attempts to stop him, however, and played a grand part in the victory.

His goal had the touch of genius. He was well placed to shoot hard, but seeing the goalkeeper advancing towards him Crooks lifted it over Duke's head into the net. Many other players would have slammed it and probably missed the net.

Defence Became Worried

The Rams' defence was not as solid and confident as we know it can be, although able to hold the Luton forwards, who showed individualism rather than team work.

When Luton made their 15-minute effort early in the second half, Nicholas and Parr, and even Leuty, were uncertain. Only bad luck prevented Luton from scoring at least two goals. At this period the Rams' defence was really worried. Leuty's clearance off the goal line, when Needham slashed a ball across the goalmouth to the far corner, was a miracle. After the groans of disappointment even the Luton supporters applauded him.

Except on three occasions when shots from Needham and Waugh brought him to his knees, and a rasper from Brice caused him to make a full-length dive, Boulton was not severely tested. He did all that was asked of him confidently.

Half-back Confidence

Ward and Bullions, while not spectacular—what half-back can be?—splendidly served their forwards. It was these two players who gave the defence confidence during that threatening 15 minutes. Ward's quick tackling abruptly ended several promising Luton movements.

Teams:
Luton Town: Duke; Beach; Dunsmore; Goodyear; Vinnah; Campbell; Daniel; Brice; Needham; Gardiner; Waugh.
Derby County: Boulton; Nicholas; Parr; Bullions; Leuty; Ward; Crooks; Carter; Stamps; Doherty; Morrison.

TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE

There are 5s. and 3s. tickets still available for the second "leg" match at the Baseball Ground on Wednesday. They can be purchased at the Baseball Ground from 12 to 2 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. to-morrow.