

Fine Goals Did Not Tip Scales For Town

[By Chiltern]

LUTON T. . . 2
Connelly, Daniel

SOUTHAMPTON . 2
Gager (o.g.), Bevis

If points were awarded for the way goals are obtained, the Town would have been easy winners in this match, but, unhappily for them, it does not matter how the ball goes into the net so long as it arrives there in a legitimate fashion.

Both the goals scored by Luton were grand efforts, while those the "Saints" obtained were nothing less than gifts.

For some while it looked as if the Town were going to be on the losing end again. They took a long time to recover from the shock of the first reverse when GAGER turned the ball into his own net in attempting a back pass to Bywater.

With Southampton hitting the ball hard and often and bustling their way through, the Town were thrown out of their stride in the first half, and seldom gave promise gaining an equaliser.

The second half was a different story, for Luton showed more lively methods, and CONNELLY equalised 13 minutes after the re-start.

This brought about a further improvement, but just as it looked as if the Town were beginning to lay the foundation of a win, Southampton broke away, and hesitation in defence and by Lake, in particular, brought about a scramble.

It ended with the ball rebounding into an empty net off BEVIS, who could count himself lucky to appear in the list of goal-scorers.

After that, it was an uphill battle, but the Town were not disheartened, and they well deserved to draw level when DANIEL took a pass from Good-year and blazed the ball into the net from the edge of the penalty area.

SHAKEN BY 'SAINTS' TACTICS

No doubt that Luton were shaken by the blitzkrieg tactics of the visitors, but their display in the second half, and the way they fought back after twice being in arrears gave promise of better things in the future.

The first goal seemed to sap Gager's confidence, and he was below his normal form. This had its effect on the rest of the defence, and there were moments when real panic existed. Hesitation and poor covering generally made their task more difficult.

Lake and Beach struggled on manfully and, despite the shaky periods, had quite a modicum of success. Goodyear and Soo were efficient, hard-working half-backs, and the latter did much better after he had switched to the right flank.

Bywater had few direct shots with which to deal, and was somewhat unlucky to be involved in two "soft" goals, for neither of which he could be blamed directly.

The attack was inconsistent, and there was again a weakness on the wings. Waugh was more dangerous than Steen, but the ball was rarely crossed into the middle.

Connelly was the best of the forwards, Daniel was a worker, and Driver was too closely shadowed by Webber, and his opportunities were too limited for him to be really effective.

LUTON TOWN: Bywater; Lake, Beach; Soo, Gager, Good-year; Steen, Daniel, Driver, Connelly, Waugh.

SOUTHAMPTON: Ephgrave; Ellerington, Rochford; Stroud, Webber, Smith; Bevis, Bates, Lewis, Roper, Grant.