

Two Thrill-Packed Hours At Luton

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN	5
Small, Brennan, Kiernan (2), Watkins	
LEICESTER CITY	5
Lee (4), Griffiths	

After an amazing game in which fortunes changed with bewildering suddenness, these two teams failed to reach a decisive result at Kenilworth-road on Saturday, despite the fact that they battled for two thrill-packed hours.

That neither deserved to go out of the Cup after such an epic struggle was something with which few would disagree, but the Town all but qualified for the sixth round, for only seconds remained when the City scored their fifth goal.

Such scenes of enthusiasm have seldom been seen on the Town ground before and they reached their climax when Watkins came along with a spectacular goal to put them ahead at 5—4 in extra time.

That seemed to be the goal to end all goals in this match, but just as the Town fans were preparing to give their team a tremendous reception on gaining one of the most thrilling victories ever, came the anti-climax for them of a goal to the City when Lee headed through from a corner by Griffiths.

It was a palpitating, disheartening moment for the Town as the City fans went wild with joy, and Lee's colleagues converged from all parts of the field to mob him in their excitement.

Despite the partial disappointment which the finish brought, it was a great day for the Town fans, who have not seen so many goals scored for years.

The forwards put up their highest tally since they beat Leeds last season, but one has to go back nearly two years to the Newcastle Easter debacle to discover the last occasion when a Luton defence conceded more goals in one match.

GOALS, GOALS, AND GOALS

Still, this was the sort of football which everyone wants to see, and how much better it is than this stodgy, negative defensive play which has grown fashionable in recent years.

There were goals, goals and still more goals. Three were chalked up before the game was 10 minutes old. The Town quickly got over the shock of being a goal down in six minutes when LEE beat Streten with a shot which cannoned over the line off the underpart of the cross-bar, and three minutes later, SMALL equalised with a cool, calculating shot taken on the volley.

Scarcely had the cheering died down than BRENNAN appeared like a thunderbolt to head a centre from Waugh into the net, and knock himself out in the process.

There followed a lull until LEE equalised after 24 minutes, and the same player caused some despondency among the Town fans by restoring Leicester's lead two minutes from half-time.

The Town had a business-like look about them when they resumed, and KIERNAN showed that they meant business when with only two minutes gone, he put them on terms from Waugh's centre.

After that, everybody was prepared for anything, and there was disappointment when Brennan had a goal disallowed for offside, and relief when Wilson got the ball away from the Town goal line after Lee had lifted the ball past Streten.

stretch.

FOUR IN EXTRA TIME

And so on to extra time, with the Town's hopes dimmed in the fourth minute when GRIFFITHS slipped into the middle almost casually to put the City ahead.

"That's that," must have been the thought in many minds, but the Town called upon all their reserve of energy, and fighting spirit, and stormed to the attack.

Brennan made the perfect opening for KIERNAN to level the scores with seven minutes gone, and then came WATKINS'S superlative effort to be followed by LEE'S match-saving goal in the dying seconds.

Bouquets are due all-round for a grand fighting display, but it was a match out of which defences came rather badly. Conditions were against them in the first place, and in the second, they were opposed to two fast-moving, streamlined attacks who struck top form early on, and secured an advantage which they seldom allowed to slip.

The Town's defence fought tremendously hard, but could not prevent the City forwards finding gaps, and only Cooke and Streten really touched their normal form consistently.

Brennan was the pick of the forwards and again proved a great forager, and showed the ability to work out openings for himself, as well as making them for others.

Kiernan and Watkins were two clever inside-men, and the wingers, Small and Waugh, generally replied well to their prompting.

But when performances of individuals are forgotten, the thrill of this game will linger on.

LUTON TOWN. — Streten; Wilson, Cooke; Morton, Hall, Gardiner; Small, Kiernan, Brennan, Watkins, Waugh.

LEICESTER CITY. — McGraw; Frame, Scott; Harrison (W.), Plummer, King; Griffiths, Revie, Lee, Chisholm, Adam.

Referee.—H. Jackson, Leeds.

Attendance. — 26,280 (receipts £4,686 13s. 6d., a record).