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MAINE BOADGOSSIP

LUCK KEPT THEIR RECORD

By THE EDITOR

A WINNING side, it is said, needs a good share of luck, and City had that in fair measure last Saturday when they collected two points from Leicester City with the odd goal in three after being one goal down at the interval.

They will never come nearer losing a game without actually doing so, but they deserve much credit for keeping their heads when all seemed lost. The defence had gruelling times on several occasions during the game, but they never panicked.

And in the last few minutes of the game when Leicester put on the screw stronger than ever even goalkeeper Bert Trautmann would admit that he was fortunate. In fact he said, after the game, "There was somebody else in goal with me."

But City must expect stern opposition in every game now. To lower the colours of League leaders is the aim of every club, no matter how lowly, and it was freely admitted at Leicester that the local side had played much above themselves. Certainly they were a

better side than they looked the last time I saw them.

The forwards were smart in outfield play and they created several worth-while opportunities. They ended at that for there was not a forward who had the wit to take time over the final effort.

Much praise is due to the City half backs who are without doubt the strong players of the side just now. And none did better than Bill Spurdle who played the best since going to Maine Road. His every move showed the touch of class and inside left Ayton moved to outside left and then to inside right in an effort to get moving away from Spurdle's attentions which were too much for him.

CENTRE-HALF'S PROBLEM

Roy Paul and Jack Rigby played well and the centre half had the toughest problem of any player on the field in endeavouring to subdue a wily and energetic leader in Arthur Rowley, brother of Manchester United's centre forward.

One could scarcely blame either Turnbull or Hart when it was seen that the right wing was not functioning too well. Both tried hard, but the extreme winger received a nasty knock with a boot fairly early in the game which slowed him down a bit.

He had the same good sense to keep an eye open for the main chance, however, and took care that he slipped unobtrusively in to the centre of the field to accept a through pass from outside left Clarke in the 75th minute to whip a left foot shot past McGraw for the winning goal.

In the 44th minute Leicester had taken the lead when Rowley deceived Trautmann with a drive from within the penalty area when the defence was nodding for once. Smith equalised eight minutes after the interval.

DEFENCE DECEIVED

And this goal revealed the football brain of Roy Paul. He had discussed with me previously the faults in the taking of free kicks. On this occasion Hart had been pulled down about 20 yards from goal. The Leicester players lined up in the time honoured fashion, making a wall for the goalkeeper. They fully anticipated a full-blooded shot, but Paul simply tapped the ball to Westcott lying handily on his left.

The centre rocketted the ball for goal and

The centre rocketted the ball for goal and was unlucky to see it charged down more or less accidentally. But it went to Smith, also unmarked, and from him right to the back of the net.

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* Round ... and ... about *

NEW PLAYERS FOR CITY?

A MAJOR search for players is now going on by the City officials. It is fairly certain that new important signings will be announced before very long.

I T was a bit of a disappointment to City that the Scottish League decided not to take any action in the request of East Fife player Alan Brown for release from his club. He is greatly fancied by manager Les McDowall—and many other managers, too.

WONDER if City fans who persist in ringing the club to inquire about kick-off times, which are always available in the Press, realise that the secretarial staff have to put in a six-day week to keep pace with the paper work that is required to be done in football club offices nowadays. Number of calls received in secretary Wilf Wild's office is tremendous.

GOLF is a favourite recreation among some of the Manchester City players, and two of the keenest are Ronnie Turnbull and Bill Spurdle who are more than just useful at the game.

*

CLOSE friendship between City wing half backs, Roy Paul and Bill Spurdle, makes for grand co-operation on the field. These two have a grand positional switch understanding that rarely fails.

FLASHBACK

N City's promotion year, 1947, they played to over 81,000 spectators in the two games against Luton which yielded the Division II champions three points.

In the Good Friday game at Maine Read, 57,592 spectators watched City win by 2-0, goals being scored by Smith and Woodruffe, and in the return at Luton on Easter Monday 24,000 watched City being outplayed and still managing to secure a point in a goal-less draw.

In both games City's defence was the strong part of the side; in the second match the only notable tries for goal contributed by City were a header from inside right Murray and a grand shot by inside left Smith. PROGRAMME OF MUSIC

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TO-DAY we bid a hearty welcome to Luton Town, and here are details of their team.

IORWERTH HUGHES (goalkeeper).—Recently turned professional after representing Wales in the Amateur International sphere. Made his League debut against Queen's Park Rangers last January.

BILLY COOKE (right back).—Signed from Bournemouth after the war after guesting for Luton. Appeared in every League match last season, and has made more League appearances than any other Luton player since the war.

THERE'S MORE FOOTBALL TO READ

in the
EVENING CHRONICLE
FOOTBALL FINAL

MOST RESULTS BEST REPORTS

POOLS CHECK

PONTOON TABLE

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BUD AHERNE (left back).—Signed from Belfast Celtic in 1949 for a fee of £8,000. Was automatic choice for Eire last season, and also played for Ireland against Wales.

CHARLES WATKINS (right half).— Hails from Scotland, and had several seasons with Glasgow Rangers before going South to Luton for a fee of £4,000. Played in the attack several times last season, but wing half is his best position.

SID OWEN (centre half).—Was secured from Birmingham three seasons ago as a wing half, but quickly showed his aptitude for the centre half position.

WALLY SHANKS (left half).—Born at Elgin, Scotland. Has played in every position in the forward line, but, barring injury, will undoubtedly keep his place in the half-back line for a long time. Joined Luton as an outside right after having a trial with Chelsea.

GEORGE STOBBART (outside right).
Cost Luton £12,000 when transferred from Newcastle last October. Began his League career as an inside forward with Middlesbrough, but has since played in every forward position. Scored four goals in eight minutes from the inside right position against Blackburn last season.

TOMMY KIERNAN (inside right).—Has only recently re-signed. Comes from North of the Tweed, and was signed from Stoke.

JIMMY JINKS (centre forward).—Signed from Fulham towards the end of last season. A Londoner, he began his professional career with Millwall before the war. Was transferred to Fulham, with whom he completed two seasons before signing for Luton.

JACK TAYLOR (inside left).—Joined Luton from Stockton in February, 1949, but injury retarded his progress last season. Is only 22, which leaves plenty of time for him to reach his peak.

ALEX GLOVER (outside left).—First came into prominence with Partick Thistle, and was later transferred to Bradford (Park Avenue) for a substantial fee. He had 18 months with Bradford before Luton persuaded him to move South for an £8,000 fee.

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MANCHESTER CITY

TRAUTMANN

Goal

PHILLIPS
Right Back

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WESTWOOD

Left Back

SPURDLE Right Half-Back

Cent

RIGBY Centre Half-Back PAUL Left Half-Back

OAKES Outside Right HART Inside Right WESTCOTT

SMITH Inside Left CLARKE Outside Left

...... Referee :

L. D. THOMPSON, Worksop Kick-off 3-0 p.m. HYDES

G. PICKERING (Red Flag)
A. ARROWSMITH (Yellow Flag)

GLOVER
Outside Left

TAYLOR (J.)

(J.) JII

JINKS Centre KIERNAN Inside Right

STOBBART Outside Right

SHANKS Left Half-Back

Cen

OWEN
Centre Half-Back

WATKINS Right Half-Back

COOKE Right Back

AHERNE (T.) Left Back

HUGHES

Goa

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ANSWERS TO QUIZ

- 1. On the Nottingham Forest ground in 1878.
- 2. In 1912 it was decided to restrict the use of hands by a goalkeeper to the penalty area.
- 3. Professionals in Football League-3,192; Outside the Football League-3,788; total, 6,980.
- 4. Last season 40,500,000 spectators watched League football-a decrease of 750,000 over the previous season.

************************************* NEXT MATCH AT MAINE ROAD 0

DIVISION II

MANCHESTER CITY

COVENTRY CITY

SATURDAY, September 30th Kick-off 3 p.m.

While You Wait

- 1. When did a referee first use a whistle as a signal during a football match?
- 2. When was a goalkeeper's privilege of using his hands restricted?
- 3. How many professional footballers were in the game last year?
- 4. Could you put a figure on the total League attendances last season?

Answers on page 6

LEAGUE TABLE POSITIONS

DIVISION II	CENTRAL LEAGUE	
[Including September 16]	[Including September 20]	MANCHESTER LEAGUE
Goals	Goals	[Including September 16]
PWDLFAPts	PWDLFAPts	Goals
	Liverpool 9 7 2 0 17 7 16 Blackpool 9 4 5 0 13 7 13	PWDLFAPts
Blackb'n R 9 6 1 2 15 10 13		Hyde Utd 6 3 3 0 18 10 9
Coventry C. 9 5 2 2 12 5 12 Barnsley 9 5 2 2 24 14 12	W'hampton. 9 6 0 3 13 5 12 Huddersf'ld. 9 5 2 2 13 8 12	Macclesfield. 4 4 0 0 14 4 8
Birm, City 9 5 2 2 24 14 12 Birm, City 9 5 2 2 12 10 12	Newcastle U. 9 4 3 2 16 9 11	Glossop 6 4 0 2 12 9 8
S'hampton 9 4 3 2 8 7 11	Bolton W 9 5 1 3 16 19 11	Droylsden 5 3 1 1 20 11 7
Doncaster R. 8 3 4 1 11 8 10	Burnley 9 3 4 2 12 8 10	Man. U. 'A'. 5 3 0 2 8 5 6
Hull City 8 4 2 2 18 15 10	Preston N E. 8 3 4 1 10 9 10	N. Heath L. 6 3 0 3 15 13 6
Chesterfield. 9 3 3 3 12 16 9	West Brom. 9 3 4 2 15 14 10	New Mills 5 3 0 2 12 11 6
Cardiff City. 8 2 4 2 11 10 8	Aston Villa. 9 4 2 3 11 10 10	Mosley Com. 4 3 0 1 8 12 6
West Ham 8 3 2 3 14 13 8	Man. City 8 4 1 3 21 16 9 Sheffield U 8 3 3 2 15 10 9	Lancs. Steel, 4 2 1 1 14 10 5
Queen's P R. 8 3 2 3 12 17 8 Brentford 9 4 0 5 13 18 8	Sheffield U., 8 3 3 2 15 10 9 Man, United, 9 3 2 4 13 13 8	Bury 5 2 1 2 7 6 5
Brentford 9 4 0 5 13 18 8 Sheffield U 8 2 3 3 10 10 7	Blackb'n R. 9 3 2 4 12 14 8	Buxton 6 1 2 3 9 14 4
Leeds Utd. 8 3 1 4 10 12 7	Sheffield W. 8 2 3 3 12 10 7	Man. C. 'A'. 4 1 1 2 4 6 3
Preston N E. 9 3 1 5 12 13 7		Stkp't C. 'A' 2 1 0 1 8 8 2
Bury 8 3 1 4 13 15 7	Bury 8 3 0 5 10 14 6	Hazel Gve C. 3 1 0 2 2 4 2
Leicester C., 8 2 2 4 14 15 6	Everton 7 3 1 3 19 18 7 Bury 8 3 0 5 10 14 6 Leeds Utd 9 2 1 6 10 15 5 Chesterfield 8 1 3 4 8 18 5	Taylor Bros. 3 1 0 2 6 13 2
Notts C 8 1 2 5 9 13 4		Stalyb'ge C. 4 1 0 3 11 13 2
Grimsby T 8 0 4 4 10 17 4	Derby Co 8 1 2 5 11 18 4 Stoke City 8 1 1 6 6 20 3	
Luton Town, 8 1 2 5 6 13 4 Swansea T 8 1 1 6 11 19 3	Stoke City 8 1 1 6 6 20 3 Barnsley 9 0 2 7 8 20 2	Urmston 6 1 0 5 10 21 2 WardSt.O.B. 4 0 0 4 7 15 0
Swansea T 8 1 1 6 11 19 3	· Darnsiey 9 U Z 7 8 20 Z	Walust.O.B. 4 0 0 4 7 15 0

LEAGUE-Division II

LEAGUE-DIVISION	•••
1950 Opponents	Re
Aug.19—Preston North End	
23—Cardiff City	H 2-
., 26—Bury	
28—Cardiff City	A 1-
Sept. 2-Queen's Pk. Rangers.	
Chimahy Town	A 4-
0 Chartowfold	
, 16—Leicester City	A 2-
, 23—Luton Town	
,, 30—Coventry City	
Oct. 7-Doncaster Rovers	A
" 14—Brentford	H
" 21—Swansea Town	
" 28—Hull City	
Nov. 4—Leeds United	A
" 11—West Ham United	
" 18—Blackburn Rovers…	
,, 25—Southampton	
Dec. 2—Barnsley 9—Sheffield United	4
10 Dunaton Month Ward	
00 Dune	
Of Diamingham City	H
00 Dimmingham Olter	
90 Oncon'a Dle Dangova	Ħ
1951	
Jan. 1—	
" 6-F.A.C., 3rd Round	
13—Chesterfield	
20—Leicester City	H
27—F.A.C., 4th Round	
Feb. 3—Luton Town	.A
" 10—F.A.C., 5th Round	
" 17—Coventry City	A
" 24—Doncaster Rovers	н
F.A.C., 6th Round	
Mar. 3—Brentford	
Trail Other	
00 Notto Counter	
04 Tooda United	
,, 26—Notts County	H
,, 31-West Ham United	
April 7—Blackburn Rovers	H
" 14—Southampton	.A
,, 21—Barnsley	H
28—Sheffield United	.A
May 5-Grimsby Town	H

Central League
Maine Road
1950 Opponents Res.
Aug.19—Bury
" 26—Burnley A 1-4
" 30—Everton
Sept. 2—Preston North End. H 4-0 6—Huddersfield Town. A 0-1
9—ChesterfieldA 3-1
13—Huddersfield TownH 5-3
" 16—Sheffield Wed
,, 23—Manchester UtdA 30—Newcastle UtdA
Oct. 7—Sheffield UnitedH
14—BarnsleyA
21—Blackburn RoversH
,, 28—BlackpoolA
Nov. 4—Bolton WanderersH
18—Derby CountyH
., 25—Wolverhampton WA
Dec. 2—Aston VillaH
" 9—Leeds UnitedA " 16—BuryA
" 00 December H
" 25—Burmey
" 26—West Bromwich AlbH
30—Preston North EndA
Jan. 1—EvertonA
, 6—
13—ChesterfieldH
" 20—Sheffield WedA
Feb. 3—Manchester UtdH
" 10—Stoke CityA
17—Newcastle UtdH
" 24—Sheffield UnitedA
Mar. 3—Barnsley
" 10—Blackburn RoversA " 17—BlackpoolH
", 23—Stoke CityH
" 24—Bolton WanderersA
,, 26—
,, 31—Liverpool
14-Wolverhampton W H
21—Aston VillaA
" 28—Leeds UnitedH
May 5-West Bromwich Alb. A

Manchester League

Hatters Park Ground Stockport Road, Denton Opponents Aug.19—Bury ... H 0-1
,, 30—Macclesfield (G.C.). A 5-3
Sept. 2—Hyde United ... H 1-1
,, 9—Hazel Grove Celtic ... A 2-1
,, 16—Manchester Utd. "A" H 1-3
,, 23—Macclesfield ... A 30—Stockport..... Oct. 7-Lancashire Steel 14—Droylsden..... 21—Hyde United..... 28—Taylor Bros.... Nov. 4-Stockport.....A —Buxton..... , 25—Buxton ... H
Dec. 2—Stalybridge. ... A
, 9—Lancashire Steel ... H
16—Droylsden ... A
, 23—Hazel Grove Celtic ... H Jan. 6—Mosley Common....H " 13—Mosley Common....A " 20—Glossop.....H " 27—Manchester Utd. "A" A 3—Maccussus
10—Bury
17—Newton Heath Loco . H
24—Glossop . A
3—New Mills . H
10—Newton Heath Loco . A -Urmston......H -Ward St. Old Boys...A

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