

BIG-HEARTED MORTY DOES IT

Replay forced with eight minutes to go and the Cup wobbling GREAT FIGHT-BACK

Blackpool 1, Luton Town 1

By CLIFFORD GREENWOOD

MANAGER JOE SMITH TOOK ONE GLANCE AT THE THIN LAYER OF SLIME WHICH THE THAW HAD LEFT ON THE BLOOMFIELD-ROAD TURF SHORTLY BEFORE NOON TODAY AND SAID "FENTON'S IN."

So Ewan Fenton, the wing-half who in his last game in the Services captained the Army team, played in Blackpool's first Cup tie of the season against Luton Town this afternoon.

Market gardener David Frith, who would have been in if the frost had continued, watched as 12th man.

Luton Town have such impressive resources in defence these days that Manager "Dally" Duncan, who used to come to Blackpool as a Leicester City forward, was able to leave out the Elre international Seamus Dunne and play young Leslie Jones, almost an unknown, at right-back.

That left the other Irishman, Bud Ahearne, to watch Matthews.

After all the prematch ballyhoo it was one of the quietest Cup days on record for an hour after the gates had opened. A few bugles brayed and a few rattles clattered but half an hour before the kick-off it might have been merely another League match. The marching of the band awakened the crowd and the parading of the Luton flag, a macabre banner in black and white, awakened the crowd up.

LONG QUEUES

The queues were long and there was a prospect that the ground record of 36,000 might be approached, but little prospect of its being passed.

Visibility was fading early in the afternoon, but there were no signs of the fog which blotted out about half of last week's match.

Teams:

BLACKPOOL: Farm; Shimwell, Garrett; Fenton, Johnston, Kelly; Matthews, Taylor, Mortensen, Brown, Perry.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Jones, Ahearne; Morton, Owen, Watkins; Davies, Turner, Moore, Cummins, Mitchell.

Referee: Mr. T. Seymour (Stanley, Wakefield).

NO GOLD MINE

When the teams took the field, which was rapidly drying out as the temperature began to fall again, the eastern end of the south paddock had only a few people scattered on its terraces, and the Kop was not packed.

This tie was fated to be no gold mine for Blackpool.

THE GAME

First half

The Luton defence defended the Kop goal after Sid Owen had won the toss.

George Farm was in action before 60 seconds had gone after Johnston's sliced clearance out on to the Town's right wing had released an attack which went on and on, with Farm holding one centre as it crossed him from the left before on the other wing Davies shot far and wide of the near post.

Blackpool's first raid was on the right. Fast passes between Matthews and Taylor prefaced a square pass inside which Brown lost as he settled on it and seemed undecided what to do with it.

Within a minute the Town's forwards were off again, fast and direct, cutting out every superfluous pass.

FINE SAVE

Farm held superbly a rising ball shot at him by Moore as the wandering centre-forward cut in front on the left.

All the early fire near goal was

Blackpool had one chance, and one big chance only, in the first five minutes.

One pass made it. Perry glided a pass downfield inside the full-back. Mortensen raced on to it, ran a dozen yards as Streten, crouching and alert, shuffled out to meet him.

The Kop was in a tumult, prepared to hail an early goal, as Owen, chasing the out-on-his-own forward, reached him a split second before he could shoot, and hooked the ball away.

Two minutes later the Town were in front with that first goal which means such a lot in a Cup tie.

LUTON AHEAD

Cummins scores with a wonder shot

It was a goal scored by one of the greatest shots I have seen on this ground for a long time.

Hesitation in the Blackpool defence on its left flank opened the raid. The ball flew over to the other flank, where Moore, out on a wing again, was waiting for it and crossed it back.

Shimwell went up to it, and headed it down into the Luton inside-left position. There, **GEORGE CUMMINS**, as it fell in front of him, hit the ball so fast into the roof of the net from 15 yards out that no goalkeeper on earth could have done anything with it.

For a time Luton played football which deserved the lead and had Blackpool's defence missing their tackles so often that it was a lead which might have been increased.

DEFENSIVE GAPS

Yet twice before the 15th minute had gone, a big gap opened in the Town's defence, and each time there might have been a goal in it.

The first gap gave Perry nearly a quarter of the field in which to take a pass away, reach shooting position, and hook his shot wide of the far post.

The second open space revealed itself on the Town's right flank of defence again.

Again Perry had a clear field, outpaced his full-back, and, as three men closed on him, crossed a centre outside the leaping Streten's reach.

As it was falling close to the far post, Mortensen, rising to it and impeding, headed the ball inches away from the post.

The 20th minute came and with it a sensation.

The tireless Mortensen chased a lofted downfield pass.

The Luton defence stood still to a man waiting for the off-side whistle. I noticed Mr. Seymour glance out to his left. The linesman's flag was down. He waved play on, and at his signal Mortensen took the pass with him.

PENALTY MISS

Brown shoots yards wide of post

In one half of the field were two men, a deserted goalkeeper and a forward swooping on him.

When they reached close quarters Streten took the line of



ONE THAT MISSED.—Allan Brown fails with a penalty kick for Blackpool this afternoon, and (below) ONE THAT FOUND THE NET—Cummins' goal for Luton.



Mins.

CUMMINS (Luton) 7
MORTENSEN (B'pool) . 82

least resistance, dived at the forward's feet with an All Black's tackle, and left him sprawling a couple of yards inside the forbidden area.

It was a penalty, and not a Town man disputed it.

Allan Brown took it, shot it fast and low, but three or four yards wide of a post as Streten danced exultantly on his line.

Nobody could say that excitement was being rationed in this match. In 20 minutes there had been a goal, a missed penalty, and in front of Luton's goalkeeper no fewer than four near-misses.

And nearly everywhere, too, the football was of good quality in spite of the game's tearaway pace.

FAST SHOOTING

And all the time, even if they had been reduced to breakaways, the Luton forwards were shooting fast whenever any sort of position offered itself.

The Blackpool defence, in the face of these raids, was not too convincing. Farm snatched away a high falling centre brilliantly as Moore crossed it, and Davies leaped up to challenge for possession of it.

A minute later, too, as Moore shot a rising ball, the Blackpool goalkeeper held it superbly as it was soaring over him.

Comments

NOW was Manager Joe Smith right when he decided that Stanley Mortensen must remain in Blackpool's Cup team?

At a time when the Cup had almost gone it was the Blackpool centre-forward who presented his famous reprieve act again.

It was a goal open to suspicion. But if ever a footballer deserved a goal to end his 10-game famine it was this man with the biggest heart in the game.

Blackpool could have lost this match and with it the Cup if they had not had a forward who chased himself nearly into the grass from the first minute to the last.

Give the first half to the Town. The Second Division men were often outplayed during it, but they had a forward line which for nearly 45 minutes showed Blackpool how to play Cup tie football.

It was a line which took the lead with a wonder goal, retained it after the tragedy of that missed penalty, and were still entitled to it at half-time.

Afterwards, however, Blackpool were in such complete possession that if Bernard Streten had not played a nearly incredible game in the Luton goal and in front of him had not had a massed, defiant, even desperate force, Blackpool must have won.

MISSED CHANCES

Blackpool, I think, would have won if the left wing had been comparable with the old firm of Stanley Matthews and Ernest Taylor on the right.

Perry missed too many chances. Brown seemed curiously deliberate in a game in which speed was always the essence of the contract.

The defence had no great match before half-time, but Farm justified his re-inclusion. Afterwards, with Shimwell as a sort of roving wing half and Fenton almost a sixth forward, the Town were nearly played out of the match.

It was a great show by the Second Division team to win a replay.

And if Blackpool are to win the second match on Wednesday they must go into the game realising that it's going to be a man-sized job.

The attendance was 25,242. The other 10,000 who preferred to stay at home missed one of the most dramatic Cup ties I have seen at Blackpool for years.

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