

Other Critics Said:

SPURS WERE STRONG AND COHESIVE

No need to look for alibis. Luton were beaten by a stronger, more cohesive team when they fell to Tottenham on Saturday. That, in a nutshell, was the unanimous verdict of the national newspaper critics who saw this game.

Luton got some credit marks—especially Bob Morton—but it was Spurs who stole the thunder.

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Here are some quotes:

"Tottenham, strong, virile and confident, were too good for a Luton struggling desperately to get out of the rut. Luton, on the lookout for new players . . . certainly appeared to be in need of fresh blood."—"Empire News and Sunday Chronicle."

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"I warn Luton that unless they effect repairs—and quickly—the side they built looks like tumbling down . . . after a short two years in the First Division."—"The People."

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"Luton, even though they switched Davies and McLeod, seldom looked other in attack than a line of five units who had not much idea of cohesion and even less of finishing power."—"Sunday Express."

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"All honour to Luton for a brave fight, the largest cheer being for right-half Morton."—"Sunday Dispatch."

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"Luton's tip-tap tactics get them nowhere on the heavy pitches."—"Sunday Pictorial."

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"Another step nearer the Second Division for Luton—though they fell fighting. Luton kept plugging away, but the mud and a solid, hard-tackling Spurs defence were too much for them."—"Reynolds News."

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"Although the Luton defence had by no means one of its best days, it is forward that the real trouble lies."—"News of the World."

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"Spurs started like potential Cup winners."—"Sunday Graphic."

SPURS' QUICK GOALS WERE MORTAL BLOWS

Not Enough Strength Or Cohesion In Town Attack

By Chiltern

LUTON TOWN 1, TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 3

An amazing burst of scoring during the last five minutes rounded off a thrilling, hard-fought first half at Kenilworth-road on Saturday and left the Town with a task which proved beyond their capabilities.

Turning around 3—1 down, they fought hard, but had neither the strength nor the cohesion in attack to really give hope that they would end their losing run, and Tottenham were deserved winners.

Yet there could have been a different outcome if, in the first attack the Town launched, Davies's shot which struck the bar had been a few inches lower, or if Pearce had accepted the chance from the rebound.

A goal at that stage would have been a great restorer of confidence, something the Town badly need, but, instead of enjoying an early lead, they found themselves in arrears a few minutes later.

Just 10 minutes had gone when ROBB scored following a centre by Medwin, after first Dunne, then McNally, had failed to stop the extreme wingers, and Morton had headed out.

Moving with tremendous speed in the mud, and finely led by Duquemin, who was unlucky two or three times, the Spurs gave the Town defence plenty to think about.

Not that the Town were without their chances, but they had not the striking power, particularly on the wings, that Spurs possessed.

QUICK BLOWS SETTLED IT

Blows which brought Spurs two goals in a minute as nearly assured them of the points as anything could. STOKES secured the first in the 41st minute, during a melee following a corner, and DUQUEMIN swept the ball through for another a minute later.

Some consolation came for the Town when Baker handled and TURNER, with bare minutes remaining until half-time, did the necessary from the spot.

What the Town wanted was an early goal in the second half, but perhaps because the heavy going began to tell on both teams, play became scrappy and never touched the standard of the first half.

Spurs relied more on their defence, rugged and meeting the ball all the time, this half, and the distinct chances that came the Town's way were few.

One fell to Davies following a free-kick by Cummins, but the ball broke away from him and that was that and Spurs were lucky when McLeod centred over Ditchburn's head and there was no Town forward near enough to take advantage of the opportunity.

STRONGER AND FASTER

All through, Spurs were stronger and faster and better balanced than the Town who, however, gained credit marks for the way in which they kept on fighting.

In the main, though, their methods were wrong. Again, their attacks took too long to develop, there was much bad passing, a lot of it too short in these conditions, and the forward line was lacking in cohesion.

To try to bring more punch, Davies and McLeod were switched early in the second half, but hard though he tried the former could not find a path down the middle, though he had

shown liveliness when he came in from the wing during the first half.

The switch had an advantage because it pointed the way to fill one of the problem positions—that of outside-left, in which McLeod showed a good deal of promise.

Occasionally, Cummins produced a characteristic piece of footwork and a defence-splitting pass, but was not consistent and spent too much time after the interval trying to get his own back for some heavy tackling which he suffered.

NOT CAST FOR THIS ROLE

Not much came from the right wing, where Pearce was held by Hopkins, and Turner, with few through passes coming his way, was not often dangerous and is having to try to work openings for himself which is not the role for which he is cast.

Although the defence was not at its best, the main worry is about the attack. Morton has come back to his old form since his latest recall from the forward line and, apart from being the cause of Stokes having a poor day he found time to attack.

Duquemin worried Owen a lot in the first half and the centre-forward had the advantage that the ball invariably came to his feet. However, the centre-half gained a tighter grip afterwards and was more like his usual self.

Worried by an injury early on, Shanks was far below his best and neither Dunne nor McNally could quieten two of the most dangerous wingers in the country. Medwin and Robb, and it was from this quarter that the chief danger came.

Certainly, Streten did all that was possible and he was not helped by some uncertain covering by the men in front.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, McNally; Morton. Owen, Shanks; Pearce, Turner, McLeod, Cummins, Davies.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: Ditchburn; Baker, Hopkins; Walley, Ryden, Marchi; Medwin, Harmer, Duquemin, Stokes, Robb.

Referee: G. McCabe, Sheffield. Attendance: 22,576.