

ats off to O'Brien

SAINTS ALL OVER LUTON

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After 20 minutes the Saints took the lead with a goal by O'BRIEN.

The goal developed from a free-kick awarded to the Saints in midfield. Knapp placed the ball into the penalty area, it was headed on by Mulgrew, and, running loose about five yards from goal, provided O'Brien with a chance to beat Baynham—a chance he took coolly and decisively.

The Saints came near to getting another goal a few minutes later—and it was again a shot from O'Brien which Baynham stopped.

But Luton went all out for an equaliser, and as they pressed Godfrey did well to dive on the ball as Knapp turned it back to him.

There was a Saints' breakaway, in which Reeves was prominent, but when Luton hit back Godfrey was again in action making a good save from Turner.

Luton defence in near-panic

Then followed a period of about ten minutes during which the Saints had the Luton defence almost in a panic.

On three occasions their attacks opened up the way to goal, and the ball bobbed about only a few yards from the line, but the Saints just could not get it over.

Another move, which began with Clifton and was carried on by Reeves, put O'Brien through, but Baynham just managed to block his shot, though he was a bit lucky to do so.

Again it's O'Brien

In the 34th minute the Saints at last reaped the reward of their persistent attacks. A centre from Penk, who intercepted a Luton back-pass, provided a fairly easy opportunity for O'BRIEN to drive the ball in from close range, and he made no mistake.

Luton's shooting, on the few occasions they got near the Saints' goal, were weak.

They had a corner when a clearance kick by Davies went over the line, but Paine intercepted, and with the help of Reeves and Mulgrew, took play rapidly upfield.

A shot from Penk brought Baynham into action.

A long kick by Davies gave Reeves the ball, and only a desperate tackle by Cope stopped the centre-forward from getting through.

He conceded a corner, but the ball was cleared.

Just before half-time Luton staged an attack, and Knapp, who was playing a great game in the Saints' defence, had to concede a corner to get out of trouble, but Luton gained no advantage from it.

Just before the whistle a long shot from Groves whistled by the Saints' post—their best shooting attempt so far. Half-time:

LUTON TOWN 0
SOUTHAMPTON 2

Both goalkeepers were in action in the first few minutes of the second half.

Godfrey ran out to hold a shot from Fleming and at the other end Baynham conceded a corner in stopping a Reeves' shot.

A hat-trick . . . and a fourth

O'BRIEN completed his hat-trick with a fine individual goal three minutes after half-time.

He charged down an attempt by Cope to clear and then ran on into the penalty box and as Baynham came out he dribbled the ball round him to turn it into an empty net, despite the efforts of Bramwell to cut him off.

The Saints' players crowded round O'Brien to congratulate him on his achievement.

The Saints maintained their complete ascendancy to get another goal three minutes later.

Reeves swung the ball out to the right as he approached the penalty box, Paine beat Bramwell and centred as the Luton defence—who seemed panic-stricken whenever the Saints got close to goal—allowed the ball to go to PENK who coolly drove it into the net out of Baynham's reach.

Luton's best attempt at scoring came soon after this. Morton took the ball out towards the left corner flag and when he centred

Ashworth tried a shot which went just over the crossbar.

Applause for Godfrey

Godfrey was applauded by the crowd for smart work when a Luton free-kick put the ball into the goal area. His first clearance sent the ball only a few yards but he held the next shot cleanly.

Paine placed a free-kick from near the touchline into the Luton goal and Baynham cleared but the Saints quickly came back again and only a desperate clearance kick by Reed, which gave a corner, stopped Reeves' shot.

The crowd began to give the home team the slow handclap and the Luton players answered by several strong attacks and, eventually, in the 76th minute they scored.

A shot from McKechnie hit the Saints' post and rebounded to TURNER who drove it in.

In the closing stages of the game Luton did better, and a few shots went nearer the Saints' goal, but none of them was good enough to pierce the Saints' defence again. Result:

LUTON TOWN 1
SOUTHAMPTON 4



O'Brien . . . a hat-trick

HAT-TRICKS, BY GEORGE!

GEORGE O'BRIEN, the Saints match-winner, has bagged hat-tricks on three previous occasions.

A year ago tomorrow he slammed in all four goals in the Dell match with Brighton to become the first player ever to score all four goals in a Division II game and only the second in the club's history to do so in a Football League match.

Earlier he notched two Scottish League hat-tricks while with Dunfermline.

SAINTS OUTPLAY LUTON

By "OBSERVER" 6/62

SAINTS kept up their fine away form with a brilliant 4—1 victory over Luton Town—the Hatters—at Luton today.

Not for a long time have I seen a Saints team so completely outplay their opponents as they did Luton for most of this match, and they came near to scoring several more than four goals.

The game was a personal triumph for George O'Brien and, with two goals in the first half and one just after half-time, he completed a hat-trick.

Penk got the other goal and it was not until the Saints were four goals up that Luton scored their solitary goal.

The Saints attack was more effective than in recent matches and completely dominated the Luton defence.

The Saints defenders had a few anxious moments and in them Godfrey did some good work. But the sound play of Knapp and the fullbacks, together with another good display by Huxford, kept the Luton forwards in almost complete check.

Attendance: 14,000. The Saints had Derek Reeves back to lead the attack after missing two matches. Otherwise the side was unchanged.

Luton, apart from having Ashworth back at inside-right, relied on the same side which won their League Cup mid-week match against Northampton.

The grass-covered pitch, bathed in sunshine, was in striking contrast to the muddy ground on which the Saints, on a very wet afternoon last season, lost 4—1.

Teams:
LUTON TOWN
Baynham
Read Bramwell
Morton Cope Groves
Walden Fleming
Ashworth Turner McKechnie
Mulgrew Reeves O'Brien
Penk Huxford Knapp Clifton
Traynor Davies
Godfrey
SOUTHAMPTON
Referee: Mr. H. P. Hackney (Barnsley).
Paine won the toss and the Saints were soon on the attack.

A raid on the left was followed quickly by a breakaway by Luton after Bramwell had fed the ball to Fleming.

The ball came into the middle and Knapp made a quick move to check Turner, but play remained in the Saints' penalty area, and Turner, having moved to the right, had a chance.

Godfrey, however, hurried himself out of goal to fall on the ball as the centre-forward was about to shoot.

Play returned to the Saints' end, and Fleming tried a long shot, but the ball went nearer to the corner flag than the goal.

Fleming intercepted a clearance by Davies and broke through to the penalty area, where Turner

SCOREBOARD

LUTON TOWN
Turner (76 minutes).
SOUTHAMPTON
O'Brien (20, 34 and 43 minutes).
Penk (51 minutes).

tried another shot, and this time the ball ran across the goal out of play.

A successful move by the Saints put them in an attacking position again, and after Traynor had tried a long shot, Reeves forced Cope to kick into touch. After the throw-in Reeves put across a good centre, but Baynham was taking no chances and came out to punch the ball clear.

Before the attack really died out a shot from Huxford went only a foot outside the post, and, just afterwards, Baynham did well to hold close to the post a drive by O'Brien.

Luton broke away eventually, and only a good save by Godfrey stopped Fleming from scoring.

O'Brien scores No. 1

Luton had a free-kick just outside the Saints' penalty area, but made little use of it.
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