

Football Notes and News.

By "THE GOALIE."

LUTON LOSE TO SWINDON.

Luton lost to Swindon away on Saturday by four goals to one. The result was not unexpected, considering the strength of the home team's attack and the comparative weakness of our defence. Swindon's notoriously strong defence also—they have only had nine goals scored against them this season in Southern League games — accounts fairly satisfactorily too for the Luton lads' solitary goal.

Swindon have thus captured two records, one of which had been Luton's till now. They have fewer goals against them than any other team in the Southern League; and they have scored more goals than any of their rivals. The number of goals to their credit is 31; and Luton, after leading in this particular through practically the whole of the season so far, have now fallen to 29 goals for 13 games. Crystal Palace have also scored 29, but have taken 15 games to reach the figure.

Luton's position in this direction, however, is still a most creditable matter. Swindon is the only other team in the three principal Leagues of the country which can claim to share with them the honour of having scored 29 or more goals for 13 games. The Luton lads thus come second in the Honours List for the whole country; and that is an achievement of which any team would be proud to be able to boast.

We have now slipped down to ninth position on the Southern League table; but, as I have prophesied before in these notes, we shall "come up" again after Christmas. We are getting all the hard games now — from a glance at the table it will be seen that in nearly every game for the past few weeks and for a week or two to come we are matched against the teams which are above us in the table; and we are getting a long and unpleasant run of away matches. Near Christmas the opposites will begin to hold sway—easier matches and a few more home games; and the Luton lads can be trusted to bring more laurels to Bedfordshire's biggest borough then.

Saturday's game was marked by the absence of "Bob" Hawkes, who was "deputised" by Johnson. Swindon put two goals on in each half, four out of their five forwards each taking a turn with the ball. Luton's uncertain defence had the effect of weakening our attack also. Our one and only goal fell to the credit of "Freddy" Hawkes towards the end of the game. Freddy's oft-times erratic shooting frequently brings smiles to the faces of the crowd, and even Fred himself cannot help laughing too now and then; but his constant "nipping in" and his sudden rushes and shots at goal were bound to result in something, and Freddy has had his reward at last! He deserves congratulations on it, especially as it was our only goal of the match.
