

FOOTBALL.

Luton's Half-Dozen.

ABERTILLERY OVERWHELMED.

[By CRUSADER].

Played at Luton on Saturday, in the Southern League. Result:—

Luton Town	6 goals.
Abertillery	nil.

Teams:—

Luton: Mitchell; Elvey and Jarvie; F. Hawkes, Frith, and R. Hawkes; Stevens, Wileman, Simms, Rollinson, and Wilkie.

Abertillery: Hurst; Adams and Jamieson; Wilmot, Craig, and Hauxby; Sangster, Jordan, Baddeley, Griffiths, and Bridgett.

Referee, Mr. R. R. Crump, East Dulwich.

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Attendance, just over 5,000. Gate receipts, £131.

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Abertillery had shown such good form the previous Saturday against Ton Pentre, whom they beat by 4—0, that it must have been a shock to them to have had such a defeat at Luton. In spite of having lost four games previously, only nine goals had been scored against them, which compared favourably with the 14 against Barry, the 15 against Ton Pentre, the 17 against Caerphilly, and the 23 against Treharris. But their defence was shattered on Saturday by Luton, whose score was exactly similar to that against Treharris. The fault was not in the goalkeeper, Hurst, whose display was a distinctly good one, seeing the frequency with which he was bombarded. The fact was that the Luton team were in a class considerably higher than Abertillery, whose inability to cope with them extended to the whole team, and was not due to a glaring weakness in any one particular section.

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Within five minutes of the start Luton had got the measure of their opponents and had planked the ball into the net. It was a goal indicative of the rest of the game, for it was from a magnificent centre by Wilkie, who was the best man on the field. His centring was brilliant. On this occasion he lifted the ball across to where Wileman got it. The inside right turned it past a 'Tilleryite and scored with a finely placed shot. Wilkie was the man of the match, and again and again his runs and centres imperilled the visitors' goal. Wileman nearly headed from another pass by him, before Abertillery made a dash for freedom. Bob Hawkes soon got his men back to the attack again, and in came Stevens from the right at a great pace. He drove the ball across hard, and it passed along in front of the goal. I should be prepared to believe that it had rolled over the line before Wilkie got it and lifted it back to the centre for Rollinson to score. That Hurst held that view was obvious by his chase after the referee to appeal. For the Abertillery men to be two down in twelve minutes must have been disappointing to them, but they could hardly expect otherwise on the comparative form of the teams.

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Stevens played with speed and determination, and his success was all the more noteworthy seeing that he was up against the best player that Abertillery had on Saturday, for Jamieson, especially in the second half, was the

only man of theirs to do anything at all noticeable. That statement does not apply to the man under the cross-bar. Had Hurst not done noticeably good things, Luton's goal average by now would have been, to say the very least, quite as good as Brentford's. Saturday was a capital day for the Luton halves, who have never shown better form all at one and the same time. Frith played a fine all-round game, and Bob did many clever little things in that quiet, almost bored-looking manner of his, which made the other fellow seem quite a simpleton at the game. But of the trio, one would say, though not with the slightest detraction from the others' merits, that Fred Hawkes was the pick. He showed that his game the previous Saturday in Wales was not a temporary brilliance of form. He had, metaphorically, kept his best football boots on all the week, for in the first few minutes of the game his play was proof that he did not want a quarter of an hour to get comfortable in them.

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By half-time, Luton had obtained half of their subsequent total, but it was not before several interesting incidents had intervened. Hurst made a smart save from a low drive by Bob Hawkes, following which the Abertillery team had a great task to keep Luton out from a corner. Fred Hawkes also sent in a beautiful shot before Wileman got on the mark again. Wilkie made a fine run, and then squared the ball. Simms missed it, and the ball came to Wileman, who netted with a neat shot. Nice passing by Rollinson, and well-judged centres by Wilkie and Stevens kept Abertillery on tenterhooks, and they had quite a little shock when Hurst could not hold a shot by Wileman and let it rebound. Presently, Wilkie tried one—swift and low—and Hurst had to be very smart with it. Sangster, the old Queen's Park Ranger, once looked like getting away, but Bob chased him, and overtaking him, robbed him of the ball very trickily.

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Stevens, aided by good supporting work by Fred Hawkes, was the most prominent in the early part of the second half. Then Jamieson tried to buck up the visitors, and twice he ran the ball from the backs right to the forwards. On the second occasion he passed it on to Bridgett, and the outside left placed it so smartly to the lower corner of the goal that Mitchell had to be smart even to dispose of it for a corner. But the flag kick was so poorly taken that the ball went towards the Abertillery goal, and really led to quite a dangerous run by Simms, whose work was nullified by Wilkie getting whistled up for offside. A clever kick by Stevens almost from the corner led to a movement in which Simms nearly headed in. If Simms was disappointed in that, however, he had the satisfaction of succeeding shortly afterwards. From 30 yards range he scored with a beautiful shot, which passed just under the bar.

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That was the fourth. Wileman got the fifth. Wilkie sent the ball across, and one of the backs missed it. Wileman, standing close in, with the goalkeeper practically at his mercy, sent the ball with a powerful kick into the top of the net. But for one occasion after that, Luton were all around the Abertillery goal. Hurst was beaten once when Rollinson shot along the ground, but the ball went across the goal-mouth and outside. A little variety was introduced by a dash away on the part of the Abertillery forwards, and Baddeley very nearly got through. As a matter of fact, Mitchell had to give a corner, but the excitement at that end was transient. In a few moments, poor Abertillery were beaten again, this time Rollinson scoring from a centre by Stevens. But how "near yet so far" was the seventh goal. Stevens was fouled in the penalty area. Simms got ready to take the kick, when Bob walked up from behind and spoke a few words to him. Simms stepped back and Wilkie took his place. There was the usual hush to concentrate the attention on the critical movements. Wilkie kicked, but sent the ball wide. It was no doubt Bob's desire to give Wilkie the chance to put the top stone on his fine constructional work of the afternoon. It would have been very nice if Wilkie had succeeded. He did not, but he still has the satisfaction of knowing that he contributed enormously to the success of his team, which, after all, should be the great point.

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At Llanelly next Saturday, Luton will be represented by the same team which beat Abertillery, unless yesterday's match at Portsmouth causes any player to be unfit for the match in Wales. It is practically certain that Durrant will not be able to play for a couple of weeks.

There will not be any home match now until the mid-week Alliance one with Southampton on Nov. 19th. Next Wednesday Cardiff, and the following Wednesday Southend, will have to be visited for Alliance games, and on Saturday, Nov. 15th, there is the away Southern League match with Ton Pentre. The Clarence will be playing on the Town ground next Saturday against the Reliance in the English Cup competition. The following week-end would have been a blank one as far as football on the Town ground is concerned, but Mr. Green has fixed up the second round English School Shield match between Luton and Northampton, to take place on that date (Nov. 8th).

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Brentford have risen to second position. Like Luton, they have won all their games. They have played one less, but their goal average is a little better. While Luton were adding six on Saturday, the "Bees" were busy getting five. Their visitors were Barry, new to the Southern League, as Luton's visitors were. Barry's strength had been weakened by injuries previously, but the men played pluckily. Sedgeley, their goalkeeper, gave a good account of himself, but in spite of that, and a creditable display by the backs, of whom Wightman was particularly noticeable for sterling work, the defence were overborne by the Brentford forwards. Johnson, formerly of the Orient, was the outstanding man, and performed the hat-trick for Brentford in the first half.

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Stoke drop from second to fourth position. They were not taking part in the competition on Saturday, and as Croydon won the match with Mid-Rhondda, the Commoners move up to third place. They have one more point out of seven matches than the Potters. Mid-Rhondda have been no easy side for Croydon. The previous week they shared two goals in Wales, and with a little more luck at Croydon the goals would not have been all on one side. Several of the Welsh team's shots went very close. Ward played a great game for Mid-Rhondda. Chester and Page were the Croydon scorers.

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Swansea showed something of their last season's form in the match with Newport. The game was fast and furious, but at first quite fair. Towards the end of the first half, McLeod got angry with Mitchell, but this was smoothed over. In the second half, however, Butler, of Newport, was ordered off the field for fouling Hamilton. Later, Allman, of Swansea, was sent off. The final score was 3—0 for Swansea. Mardy made a goalless draw at Ton Pentre, and have now quite a respectable place in the table. An event which should be hailed with enthusiasm is that Treharris have now got one point. They drew with Pontypridd. Every other one of their eight matches has been lost. Treharris deserve praise for managing a draw with Pontypridd, who generally prove a difficult side even for the English teams.

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The Ton Pentre team had a thrilling experience on Monday. They were returning to Treharris Station after a match when the cyclone, which did so much damage in Wales and the West of England, burst upon them. Woolford, the right back, was carried twenty yards and hurled against a wall, with the result that his head was badly injured. He was taken to Merthyr Hospital in a critical condition. It was found that his skull was fractured, and he died on Tuesday without recovering consciousness. Several of the other players were lifted off their feet, and Breeze, the trainer, who was walking arm-in-arm with Woolford, had two ribs broken and was also taken to the hospital. Woolford was Ton Pentre's star back. He was a Swindon man, and he several times played in Swindon's Southern League team. This was his first season with Ton Pentre, and he had been playing splendidly. Apart from their personal loss, the team will feel severely the removal of such a good player, especially as their resources are so limited.

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The collection at the Luton v. Abertillery match last Saturday by the Supporters' Committee and Red Cross Band realised £14 1s. 3d., and will be given, without any deduction whatever, to the Welsh Mine Disaster Fund.

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The Supporters' Committee have decided to hold a public meeting at the Corn Exchange on November 18th to lay before supporters particulars with reference to proposed excursions, etc. For the Swansea trip, 200 passengers have to be guaranteed; the start will be at 5.30, and the fare will be 7s. 6d. For a trip to Stoke on Easter Monday, the Club would have to guarantee 300 passengers, and the fare would be 6s. A benefit will probably take place next month at the Picturedrome for the Club's funds.

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