

Football Notes.

BY "THE GOALIE."

WILEMAN'S WILES.

HAT TRICK AGAINST ABERTILLERY.

LUTON'S SEVENTH CONSECUTIVE VICTORY.

As far as goals are concerned, Luton gained the best victory of the day on Saturday by defeating Abertillery at Luton by 6-0. Brentford and Croydon Common were also at home with Welsh clubs as visitors, and both won, so that Luton are still only two points ahead of Brentford, who, however, have a game in hand. Brentford have the best goal average, which was considerably improved by their five goal victory over Barry. Croydon could only score twice without reply against Mid-Rhondda, who appear to have a very good defence. The chief event in Wales was the 3-0 victory gained by Swansea over Newport County, and the former team may have to be reckoned with in the race for promotion. Tre-harris gained their first point of the season by drawing with Pontypridd, and Ton Pentre and Mardy also divided the points.

Luton's big victory was due mainly to their irresistible, sparkling play in the first twenty minutes, when three goals were scored. After this Abertillery offered a much more stubborn resistance, and it was only by clever individual efforts that Luton were able to increase the lead. The visitors have a good custodian in Hurst, but their backs are very shaky at times. Craig, at centre-half, is easily the best of a moderate middle line; and Baddeley and Bridgett are the pick of the forwards, who are hardly heavy enough for Second Division football. Luton were best served on Saturday by Wileman and Wilkie, who did some brilliant work. The first three goals were all due to the latter's fine centres. All the halves played well, and the backs and Mitchell had little difficulty in coping with the none too forceful movements of the visiting forwards. The two teams lined up as follows:—

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

Abertillery. — Hurst; Adams and Jamieson; Wilmet, Craig, and Hauxby; Sangster, Jordan, Baddeley, Griffiths and Bridgett.

Luton won the toss, and Baddeley kicked off before about five thousand spectators. The weather was ideal for football, and the turf was in splendid condition. Before many minutes had elapsed the fine passing and dash of the Luton forwards promised a hot time for the visitors, and this promise was fulfilled about four minutes from the start when the first goal was scored. Wilkie received one of those fine passes which makes Bob Hawkes such a valuable member of the team, and he put in a beautiful swinging centre which sent the ball to Wileman. The inside right breasted it past the back, and getting it well under control, ran in and beat Hurst with an unstoppable shot. Immediately afterwards Wilkie beat both the half-back and the back and sent in another fine centre from which Simms headed wide, and Wileman also made an unsuccessful attempt to convert a centre from the left winger. The second goal was the result of some excellent combined work by the whole line. Simms sent the ball well out to Stevens, who raced goalwards and centred from the line. The ball went right across the mouth of the goal, and only a touch was needed to place it in the net. Nobody was up, however, and the leather went out to Wilkie, who centred for Rollinson to score with ease.

The next incident of note was a splendid ground shot by Fred Hawkes, and Hurst could only save by throwing himself full length and conceding a corner. Fred also shot just over the bar with another excellent attempt, and so hot was the pressure that a third goal was bound to come. Wilkie was again the initiator of the movement, and though his centre was missed by Simms, the ball went to Wileman, who flashed it into the net. No other goals were scored during the first half, although it would have been all up with Hurst's charge if anyone had been at hand when he dropped a shot from Wileman. Wilkie and Wileman both had grand shots turned behind by the goalkeeper, and close upon half-time Hurst cleverly got the ball away after a veritable scramble in front of the net. At the interval Luton led by three clear goals.

Although Abertillery had more of the play in the second half, their goal had several narrow escapes before Simms got the fourth goal with a fine shot from thirty yards' range. Hurst made a grand save from a cross shot by Wileman, but the inside right soon afterwards completed the "hat-trick" from Wilkie's centre. From an error by Jarvie, Abertillery went nearer scoring than they had done during the whole of the game, Sangster putting across a brilliant cross-shot which Mitchell could only keep out by diverting it for a corner, the first the visitors had had. This was badly placed by Bridgett, and racing down to the other end the Luton forwards again threatened danger. Rollinson got the sixth goal from a centre by Stevens, and in the closing stages the latter was badly fouled in the penalty area. Perhaps as an experiment, Wilkie was called upon to take the kick, and he drove the ball wide of the goal amongst the spectators on the terrace.

Score :—

LUTON 6, ABERTILLERY 0.