

FOOTBALL NOTES.

(By CRUSADER).

I think we were all thoroughly satisfied with the game on Monday evening, even if the result—2 goals to 1 in Luton's favour—was not as decisive as it might have been. We should have liked the splendid efforts of the Town to have been more fully rewarded, for I think on the run of the play we deserved quite as pronounced a victory as that we won over Newport. There was always a classy style about the Rangers that the Town never quite appeared to reach, but it was rather that of individualism than of combination. For sheer grit and endurance there could be nothing better than the Town team's display, for they went wholeheartedly into the fray from the outset, and they gave the Rangers' strong defence no peace. All credit is due to the Rangers' backs and goalkeeper for their valiant resistance, but they were very fortunate at times, and they could hardly have grumbled had we scored half a dozen goals. This is all the more satisfactory when one bears in mind that a few minutes before the kick-off, the Town directors were in a quandary as to the constitution of the team.

Higginbotham was obviously unfit to turn out at Selhurst on Saturday. Bookman got crocked, and Rutherford and Grimes were declared unfit, but the team which eventually won the points simply won by hard work, sometimes clever, at others more urgent than pretty. Hoar had a great share in the victory, and besides scoring the first goal with a very fine effort, he would have got no more than he deserved had he seen three of his corners converted instead of one. He was the best forward, nay, the best player on the field, if we come to comparisons, and he revelled in hard work. As he was playing in his old position at outside left, the question arises whether he might not have been even more successful there than at the other extreme, where he has done so well. What is required for him on the right is a steady, experienced player, capable of receiving the hard knocks and of protecting the lithe winger, for if a player has to go through two or three seasons bearing the brunt of the work of his wing he is not going to last much longer than that period.

When Percy Hill has got thoroughly used to first-class football I think he will be quite competent to afford such protection to the man more lightly built. Although some are disposed to think that Hill made a glaring mistake in the second half, when either he or Simms might have scored, I do not. I was watching the ball as well as the player, and as he attempted to shoot it rose awkwardly from the ground, for it was moving, and his shin struck it instead of his instep. That was the reason it went outside. These are the details critics usually miss. In the same position, no other player could have scored. I was glad he got the winning goal. It gives a player a lot of encouragement. Newman's injury, and it was very painful, detracted from his subsequent play, but that he will be a capture there can be no doubt. He is a born footballer, young, and built on lines which enable him to defy any back, and the way he stood up to the hefty defence was good. Simms never shirks anything like that, and never will, I suppose, and when he has found the right pair of boots he will be all right. Tomlinson did well in a curious position, and although it can hardly be expected that he will keep it, for he is not built for an outside man, he proved a splendid substitute. Of the halves, Parker played with all his cleverness on view, and that means a lot, while Urwin again gave evidence that he is a rare half in any position. Fred Hawkes proved his title to a place in the first eleven, and that he has a lot of football in him yet. It is almost a custom to compliment Elvey, but I think Jack Dunn deserves a word of praise, for he was quite as good as his partner, while Summers could not, in my opinion, be blamed for the goal, and he kept out many shots which might have scored. Altogether the team gave a display sufficiently good to warrant us tipping them to win against Southend on Saturday.

The Rangers are a clever side, but they were beaten by pluck and perseverance. Merrick again did wonderfully well, Wingrove was the better back, and the honours at half belonged to Baldock and Broster, while forward I liked Ramsey immensely.

Two goals to one is not a big win, but it is something to be going on with, and I, for one, was quite satisfied with the result and the players.

We lost on Saturday at Selhurst by exactly the same score as the Palace beat us by at Luton, and the goal average suffered to the extent of four goals to one. Nevertheless, on the whole the Town gave a good display, and it was in a bad time just before the interval that the Palace scored three of their goals. Higginbotham appeared at inside right, and one who was present at the match says: "I believe that Luton have made a capture in Higginbotham. His footwork at times was lovely and typically Scottish." I hope we shall see some of it on Saturday next. He scored the Town's only goal in the second half, but he was deficient in training, and was far from fit for so strenuous a game. Perhaps he will be more his real self this week-end, for he is training hard.

The match with the Seaside on Saturday should be a tough one. When we went there we lost by three clear goals in a game which was really remarkable for the poor control of the referee. David Williams was sent off in that match, and altogether it was a lamentable sort of game.

The constitution of the Town team is uncertain, but Higginbotham is booked to turn out. If the latter is unable to, and Rutherford has recovered, I should like to see Parker placed at inside left. I am chary of expressing the opinion of some of my readers, one of whom said only yesterday: "If they play Parker forward I am sure they will never move him."

Mr. Green tells me that he has fixed up a couple of special trains to run to Watford on Good Friday afternoon. The first leaves Luton at 1.15, to be followed by a second train, picking up at Leighton and Dunstable. The first train, it should be noted, will not stop at Leighton and Dunstable, but will run direct to Watford. The tickets will be limited, and arrangements are being made for tickets to be booked at Luton station the day previous. The accommodation of these trains is limited, and supporters from Dunstable and Leighton in particular, should make early application for tickets. The return fare will be 6s. from Luton and Dunstable, and 6s. 9d. from Leighton. The times for the return trains will be announced later. It should be remembered that there is no other train service on that day, and the Town Club are risking £200 in order to provide for their supporters.