

FOOTBALL NOTES

Again the Town got less than their deserts on Saturday, and the Southend team went back with a point, but little honour. Even their severest critics agreed that the Town deserved both points, and it was distinctly hard that after having all the better of the game when numbers were equal, and putting up such a brave show when short handed, that they should yield a point. Had the visitors shown even decent regard for the rules of sport it is probable that the Town would have got goals in the second half, for Hill and Higginbotham were let down in dirtiest fashion after beating the backs. I am glad we had no serious trouble after the game, but if ever a team asked for it, Southend did, and the unfortunate part of it was that Reid, the most experienced player in the team, was the worst offender. Three times he swept Hill's legs from under him, and twice Higginbotham, apart from less glaring tricks, and the man in front of him—Evans—was not much better. It is a pity referees do not treat tripping more seriously.

Simms' injury was due to his eagerness, for he strained the muscles of the heart very badly. Fortunately it is not so serious as was at first feared, and he will probably be playing again shortly, although he is not likely to appear in the four matches of Eastertide. Before leaving the field he had scored one of the best goals seen on the ground this season, and was leading the line splendidly, and it was a great pity he had to go off. Nicholls got the equaliser close on time, with a slow dropping shot, Summers being un-sighted, and Southend got more than their deserts.

For the Town, the defence was in rare fettle, and Fred Hawkes again justified his inclusion. The forwards' combination was dislocated by Simms' departure, but all tried hard, and Hill and Higginbotham again did well.