

FOOTBALL NOTES

(By CRUSADER).

Those of you who read the excellent report I got through from Wales for the "Tuesday Telegraph" will need no further assurance that the Town deserved the point they picked up at Swansea. It was quite well deserved, and the players were particularly pleased, for it proved that the defence which fell so heavily in the first match, is gradually getting into shape. Everyone of the Town team was delighted with the display given by Bailey in goal. It is rough luck on Jimmy Watson, in one sense, but he will be sensible enough to recognise that it would not be fair to move Bailey while he is doing such good work, great goalkeeper though Watson is. The gentleman in Wales who wrote up the match for me is one of the experts in the Principality, and he gives the palm to the old Millwall man as being the first factor in the Town's success. It must not be inferred that the game was wholly centred round Bailey's goal, for the Town had quite an equal share of the play taking the game as a whole into consideration. Bailey's task came in the concluding stages when Swansea were trying desperately hard to gather both points. Their defence had their hard time, and that came in the first half when Luton had much the better of the game, and might easily have won had they had any luck in front of goal.

After the very fine display of Bailey, the work of Lennon needs special mention. He applied himself to the superintendence of Swansea's special centre-forward, Beynon, the old Rugby International player, who came into the side on the previous Thursday against Norwich and performed the hat trick. Lennon beat the man of brawn by sheer judgment and skill, robbing him of the ball as coolly and cleverly as could be imagined, and the Welshman cut a very poor show against the little Scot, who played his best game to date, and amply proved that the reputation on which he was signed was thoroughly established. The only thing was that he had not played against English style before, but he has shown his fitness for the job. (Mark my word, Semple will seize his next chance with both hands. He has learned, too). Tirrell also accomplished splendid service without being showy at all, and his coolness saved the side on many occasions in the hot period of the second half.

Parker was fine at centre-half, and although he may be occupying the position against his

desire, he is showing that he is a better man there than on the wing. Parker always wandered a little too much when he was on the wing, for he is a restless sort of individual when the ball is on the move, and had to be after it. He is getting all the work that he needs now, and he plays himself right out. He, too, dealt with Beynon in a way that the latter must have found to be something new and puzzling. Cockerill gave a good display in the first half, although he was not quite so strong in the second, while Molyneaux was

the ubiquitous young man that he has been in every game he has played, and was always steady and sure.

The forward line gave the Swansea supporters a rare fright in the first half, and Ernest Simms, who again led the line with great judgment, had the most atrocious luck on at least three occasions. Even in the closing stages he topped the bar with a beautiful drive after beating the defence, and at a time when the match would have been won if the shot had got home. He was well helped by Hill and Higginbotham, and the former has certainly secured his place. His goal was the result of all round excellence and combination, and the home defence were quite scattered by the fine footwork that had preceded Hill's chance. Higginbotham led many raids, and the way he fed Simms materially contributed to the latter's usefulness. It will be a thousand pities if the Scot is suspended for something he has not done, but we should know all about it this week-end. Not merely the Luton players, but the officials, all agree that the referee was mistaken in his man when he said that he had previously cautioned Higginbotham at Portsmouth. He had done nothing of the kind. It was another player. Bookman also reaped the benefit of Higginbotham's astuteness, and, like Hoar, contributed many dashing runs and centres, and for almost the whole of the first half the Swansea defenders were working at high pressure.

It was a very clean game, and there were not more than three or four fouls throughout, and those were neither serious nor dirty, but rather the result of mishap. The Luton team are to be congratulated, and the only thing one would wish from them is that they should not wait for their turn until the opposition has scored a goal. Jones had already scored for the home side on Saturday before the Luton forwards began those fierce raids that nonplussed Swansea's defence at Luton.

The teams were:—

Luton.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneaux, Parker, Cockerill; Hoar, Hill, Simms, Higginbotham, Bookman.

Swansea.—Crumley; Robson, Ogley; Durbin, W. Y. Brown, Williams; Holes, I. Jones, Beynon, Rigsby, Prentice.

Referee: Mr. J. A. Fish, Walthamstow.