TOWN DOWN.

It is extraordinary how opinions differ in regard to football. Since the report in the "Tuesday Telegraph" appeared two letters from Lutonians in London have made me wonder which was the better team. One makes it clear that the Rangers ought to have exceeded Swindon's record, and the other makes one wonder why Luton did not get at least half-a-dozen goals. I prefer to keep to the report received officially, and that certainly gives the palm to the Rangers by a wide margin of superiority. I see that the Rangers' manager thinks his men do a lot better away from home because they get bigger grounds. This would argue a bad time for the Town in the return game. If the Rangers can win by 4—1 on a ground that does not suit them, what will be the result on a ground that does? Such talk is rot. Any peculiarities in a ground are always more advantageous to the home side, and if there was any difficulty for a team on Saturday it was the Luton side that caught it.

Evidently there was not a lot of difference between the teams until the middle of the second half, and then the Rangers got a goal and put the result safe. Birch got the only goal of the first half, and followed with a second soon after the resumption. Percy Hill replied to this, and Luton threatened to draw level, but failed, and eventually Gregory got the fateful third goal and Mitchell the fourth from a penalty kick.

Our official correspondent says of the teams: The Rangers were quite good value for their victory. There were times when the Luton forwards did good work, but they were always playing against odds, and while the Rangers' middle line had not a lot to boast about, they were much better as a line than the visiting middle men. The home team, moreover, showed much better understanding than Luton. There was plenty of fast forward play, and the defence was steady at all times, and the Rangers' inside men gave their wingers any amount of work. Indeed, I should place this excellent nursing of the wingers as the first reason for the victory. Smith, Birch and Gregory did very little short passing, but they sent the ball out wide to the wingers, who were speedy and tricky. Faulkner was about the best, and Smith and Birch made good use of him.

There was little to choose at half, Grant probably the best, but there was nothing to choose between Blackman and Grimsdell, who are really fine defenders. Hill kept goal splendidly, but had not a gruelling time.

For Luton there were three players who deserve special mention. Bailey was brilliant, and had no chance with anything that scored. Some hold that he should have saved the third goal, but it was a question of taking risk, and it did not succeed on this occasion. The backs worked very hard, and Lennon was the cleverest defender on the field. He foiled Gregory and Middlemiss time and often when Molyneaux was beaten, and, while his kicking was carefully rushed, he was a fine tackler. Tirrell was not sharp enough for Faulkner, but there seemed to be a lack of understanding between him and Cockerill, and the result was that the winger got through almost as he liked. Cockerill was often paying more attention to Birch than to the extreme winger, who is a dangerous man to leave unattended. Molyneaux was a worker, but not brilliant, and Parker was easily the best of the line. He played hard throughout and in many duels with Smith he came out with honours. Of the forwards I liked Hoar and Bockman best. Hoar was not far short of being the best forward on the field, but did not get enough work. Bookman was fast and clever, but finished poorly. Higginbotham is clever undoubtedly, but he got badly shaken up soon after the start, however, and that must have affected his game. I much preferred the go-ahead methods of Hill, who went off for goal like a shot whenever the ball came his way. Probably he overdid the single-handed rush business, to the detriment of Hoar, but he is certainly a very dangerous forward. Simms played hard throughout, but I thought he was apt to hold on too long against such hefty men as Blackman and Grimsdell, to say nothing of the vigorous Mitchell.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 4 goals

LUTON TOWN ..... 1 goal

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS:—Hill; Blackman, Grimsdell; Grant, Mitchell, O'Brien; Faulkner, Birch, Smith, Gregory, Middlemiss.

LUTON TOWN:—Bailey; Tirrell, Lennon; Molyneaux, Parker, Cockerill; Hoar, Hill, Simms, Higginbotham, Bookman.

Referee:—J. Winter, Crewe.

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