

FOOTBALL NOTES

(By CRUSADER).

Since I have been in Luton I have never know its football following so convinced that things are well with the Town as on Saturday night. For some reason of other almost everybody I had met fancied Grimsby Town's chances. It may be that the Town players had come across something of the kind too, and were put on their mettle. Anyway, they gave the most reassuring display of the season, and they were full value for their 3-1 victory. From Bailey in goal to Bookman at outside left they played a hard, confident game, and the two goals margin did not exaggerate their superiority.

The first goal was hardly a brilliant affair, smacking of accident, for Whalley was held to blame. I do not subscribe to that opinion, for I think the old Preston goalie was unsighted after the ball had left Simms' foot, and when he went down he had lost sight of it, or it would never have been allowed to trickle under his body into the net. The second, which came ten minutes after the restart, was different. It was a fine goal, the work of an opportunist, and must have given Simms immense satisfaction. He caught the ball on the half volley and lammed it into the net before the Grimsby defenders knew what had happened. Several other goals should have come before Storer headed through a corner kick for Grimsby five minutes from the end, and at that period the "Mariners" were playing well enough to pull the game out of the fire, but two minutes later Bookman got away to score a great goal in classical style, and the game was safe.

It was a good, hard-fought game as a whole, and the home team were full value for what they got. Had Mathieson had any luck he would have scored a couple with ease, Simms might well have bagged double the brace, and Percy Hill's star was not in the ascendant. Simms was a great leader again, and his swinging passes to Hoar were always productive of danger. He dribbled strongly and shot well, and the crowd were very pleased with him. Mathieson's display was better than anything he has done in any previous match, and Percy Hill was in rather better form than the week before. Both Hoar and Bookman were good, although the latter had periods in which he was almost starved.

They ran and centred well, whenever they got a pass. The home halves were on their best form, and Parker was magnificent both as a breaker-up of opponents' combination and a nurse of the men in front of him. Molyneaux and Lamb were useful rather than ornamental, and neither allowed his opponents much scope. Lennon scintillated at back, and was in great form. Some of his work was quite masterly. Tirrell was strong and reliable, and he has won the confidence of his colleagues and the crowd by his clean, steady play.

Bailey was fine in goal, especially in a hot period near the end when Grimsby gave of their best, his intuition and agility saving goals.

Of the visitors one can understand them breaking out with big wins occasionally, for they are a robust, bustling lot, if not extraordinarily clever. They have a hefty defence, Whalley being a big goalkeeper with long reach and good judgment, and he is supported by strong, workmanlike backs in Dawson and Affleck, between whom there is not much to choose. Storer was the star at half, his clever work nullifying many attempts, while in the forward line Spink,

the capable outside right, and Morrall, a dapper inside left with twinkling feet, were best.

LUTON TOWN.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneaux, Parker, Lamb; Hoar, Hill, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

GRIMSBY TOWN. — Whalley; Dawson, Affleck; Bradford, Carmichael, Storer; Spink, Collier, Clark, Morrall, Blake.