

FOOTBALL CHAT

(By CRUSADER).

Luton Town fully deserved their two clear goals victory over Brentford, but Thursday is very close to Saturday, and I do not want to say too much, for after the Norwich business, when everyone looked upon two more points for an away match, one must needs be careful, and Brentford is not a nice easy place from which to gather goals. Their ground and crowd are among the toughest things in the League. Still, again "provided" all things being equal, we should get two more points from Brentford on Saturday. They will entail much hard work, and I must confess that I do not like London referees figuring in matches in which London teams participate — and I regard Brentford as a London side. It is no good beating about the bush, Mr. Crump was not satisfactory last Saturday, although we have suffered worse. The "Bees'" defenders gave a lot of nasty hard knocks in the second half, and were not very particular how they managed to do it so long as they kept the home forwards off the ball. Mr. Crump was far too lenient in this respect, but he was very severe on any attempt at retaliation.

Both Luton's goals were good. Simms' was a glorious shot taken on the run, and Durston was completely beaten by it. A couple of such shots ought to win any match. Mathieson's was a smart low drive with swerve on it, and Durston never shaped like saving it. He did save many dangerous efforts, and it was mainly his long reach and the stubborn work of Hodson and Rosier that kept the score down. Nevertheless, it was singular that the Town should play so much better against the strong wind than when it was behind them. At times their combination was really fine, and they kept the ball down well in the first half, and in this way had the better of the game. In the second they were constantly pressing, but could not get in a scoring shot.

Bailey had very little to do compared with Durston, and he was well protected by Lennon and Tirrell. The former played at his very best, and scores of people are telling me what an attraction he is. Tirrell has settled down into a steady, strong partner, and I do not think any fault can be found with the rearguard. The middle line is not so good. It is patent that Parker is the best centre-half we have. I do not say he could not be improved, but he certainly has no serious challenger among Luton's players. Molyneux continues to improve, and he again gave a clean, sound display, while Cockerill justified his inclusion. The forwards were excellent in the first half, but moderate in the second. All through they played well in midfield, but in the second half they lost their bearings when in front of goal. Simms had a rough time after he had scored, but he got in a lot of sterling work. Higginbotham and Mathieson were useful helpmates, and Hoar again gave a first-class account of himself, while Bookman did useful work when he got a chance.

Of the visitors, Durston, Rosier, Amos, and Spreadbury were the pick.

LUTON TOWN. — Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Parker, Cockerill; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

BRENTFORD. — Durston; Hodson, Rosier; Elliott. Amos, Morris; Taylor, Smith, Boyne, Spreadbury, Cartmell.

Referee.—R. R. Crump, London.

The Town have signed John Shankland, an inside-right from Nithsdale Wanderers, Sanquhar, Ayrshire, for whom he has scored a lot of goals. He is 23, 5ft. 8ins. in height, and just over 11 stone. He is a powerful shot and very clever with his feet and head. Last Saturday his signature was secured after a match in which he had scored two goals out of six his side got against Thornhill, in the Ayr County Cup. He

would probably have been given a run at Brentford on Saturday had he been able to turn out in the Cup-tie the following week.

The Town will field the same team at Brentford on Saturday as last Saturday, and there is likely to be a good game at Luton, where Portsmouth Reserves, hitherto unbeaten, are to play. It is possible that a new half-back will be on view, if the efforts of the directors to secure a first-class man whom they are after, mature. In addition it will be interesting to see how McKecknie and Shankland shape, and if they are really capable of challenging Sid Hoar and Harry Higginbotham for a place in the first eleven.