

BRILLIANT VICTORY AT LUTON.

LUTON TOWN 3 goals
EXETER CITY nil

At Luton.

LUTON TOWN: Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Roe, Lamb; Hoar, Shankland, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

EXETER CITY—Pym; Colebourne, Feebury; Crawshaw, Carrick, Green; McIntyre, Makin, Shields, Hetherington, Dockray.

By far the best exposition the Town have given since their phenomenal victory at South Shields was their success at Luton on Saturday over Exeter City. From the beginning it was only a question of the margin of victory, and the three clear goals success was no exaggeration of superiority. The mainspring of success was the effective understanding between the middle and front lines, and the most gratifying feature was the manner in which the lively ball was kept on a hard ground. Passing was clean and snappy, and the players showed great speed and dash. When SIMMS scored the first goal after ten minutes' play, Pym had already done more work than was required from Bailey all through the game, one save being a particularly daring exploit, for he dived at full length off the goal line and took the ball off Simms' foot when the latter was only a few feet from the objective. The goal was a really brilliant effort. The initiatory work belonged to Lamb and Bookman, and when Mathieson got the ball he transferred to Simms, who took the ball on the move, and with a skilful right-about turn he shot into the net right away from Pym, who made a gallant effort to reach the ball. Rarely did the "Grecians" get into dangerous attacking position, and when they did Bailey, Lennon and Tirrell were quite safe. At the other end Simms missed from close quarters, and shots were poured in, but Pym was cool and clever and repelled all in masterly style. Colebourne and Feebury were very hard worked, and they did wonderfully well, too, and so at half-time there was only one goal on the books.

The second half was even more one-sided than the first, and Pym had done magnificent work before he was again beaten by SIMMS, who took a pass from Mathieson and drove the ball home. Immediately afterwards MATHIESON crowned a great game with a tremendous shot that had Pym beaten the whole of the twenty yards of its flight. In addition, Simms twice struck the post, and had very hard lines with several good shots.

Exeter could not cope with the incisive methods of the Town forwards. Mathieson's brilliant work was a feature of the match. His skilful juggling with the ball was not spoilt as often as it usually is by over-elaboration, but he kept tapping the ball through the middle for Simms to take a cut at goal, and no player showed such command and artistic manipulation, while he now and then manœuvred a shot of such speed as made the spectators gasp. Mathieson is going to be an exponent of the highest merit, and had his work on Saturday been witnessed by the Irish F.A. Selection Committee Bookman would have had his own partner in the International match on April 9th. Simms benefited immensely by Mathieson's work, and shot magnificently. He had very hard lines in not bagging sufficient goals to place him at the head of League goal scorers. Shankland was an unselfish and skilful partner for Hoar again, and his display only lacked speed. He got a lot of work out of Hoar, who again did brilliantly. The latter's centres were accurate and always boded ill for the visiting defence. Bookman got more work than at Watford, but might have had more. What he did not get, however, Simms did and the latter gave the Irish International more work than usual, and was rewarded with several nice centres.

Molyneux again played sterling football, and he came off the better in many tussles, while his work in conjunction with Hoar and Shankland was very entertaining. Roe, who took Parker's place, put up a splendid show, and Shields could do nothing effective against him, while his feeding of the forwards was clean and skilful. Lamb was at his best, particularly in defensive work; Lennon's tackling and kicking were as judicious as at any time this season, while Tirrell was in great form again, and so Bailey had very little to do.

Exeter's defence was the best part of the team. Pym is a great goalkeeper, and he made a number of fine saves. Colebourne was the smarter of a fine pair of backs, but the middle men were run off their feet. They had so much to do in obstructive work that they had little opportunity of joining in attack. Carrick played well, but tired by the end. Dockray was practically the only forward to create danger, and he was an attractive exponent.

A word of praise is due to Mr. Lucas for his clever handling of the game. This was conducive of cleanness, and the spectators enjoyed the game all the better for it.