

FOOTBALL NOTES

(BY CRUSADER).

NEWPORT'S DESERVED WIN.

NEWPORT COUNTY 2 goals
LUTON TOWN Nil

NEWPORT COUNTY.—Cooper; McMillan, Pellan; Groves, Walker, E. Edwards; W. F. Edwards, Dobson, Devlin, Wolstenholme, Gaughan.

LUTON TOWN.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Parker, Walsh; Hear, Butcher, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Referee: G. M. Pardoe, Kidderminster.

Saturday was the second occasion this year on which I was denied the privilege of accompanying the Town team. The previous disappointment was on Easter Tuesday. On Thursday full arrangements had been made as usual for inclusion in the party, but events over which I had no control caused the cancellation, and wire and 'phone had to be hurriedly called into action to enable satisfactory arrangements to be made for a report for the "Saturday Telegraph," and to ensure further reports for this paper and the "Luton News."

The journey was made on Saturday morning, but the abbreviation of travelling facilities necessitated the Town staying at Cardiff until Sunday, when they had a long and tiresome journey, arriving in Luton too late to attend church.

It was decided by the directors to turn out once more the Cup team, but owing to the illness of his wife Jack Lamb had to cry off, and Walsh was brought into the team in his stead. Newport relied on the eleven that did so well at Luton, but it was generally felt that the Welshmen were fortunate to escape with a point, and that the Town would be strong enough to win, or at least to equal their performance at Newport last season, when they won a point. It was not to be, and, taking as satisfactory the report I have received from Wales, Newport thoroughly deserved to win, and thus to revenge their loss last season, when the Town took three of the four points. April has been a very bad month for the Town—the worst month of the season—for we have not won one match during the month, and in one match only have we had a goal. Two points and two goals from six matches (including the visit to Bristol on Easter Tuesday) is poor business indeed—not good enough even for the end of the season, and so the opportunity for a good wind-up of the card was narrowed to last night's match and that with Gillingham next Saturday.

Luton Town did not live up to their reputation, and while the Newport crowd were glad to see their favourites win, they were quite convinced that Luton were not playing up to their best form by very long chalks. None could gainsay the homesters' superiority. The difference between them and the "Strawplaiters" lay in the fact that while the latter played a typical end-of-the-season game, the home team were anxious to put as big a gap between themselves and Gillingham as possible.

And it must be granted after a glance at the League table, that the home team's bag is not so very far removed from that of Luton, and with the knowledge that they had brought a point away from Luton they could not afford to do worse before their own supporters, and so they went all out from beginning to end for a win. And again, a victory gave Newport the certainty of improving upon their lowly record of last season.

The game was thoroughly interesting throughout, for while the Luton forwards never rose

to the height of a real first-class side, their defence certainly did so. In the first half, both

GOALKEEPERS DID FINE WORK,

but Bailey had the more strenuous task, and it was chiefly his agility and judgment that kept the home forwards from scoring until the second half was well advanced. Bailey's tormentor in chief was DEVLIN, who was in his most aggressive mood, and he got both goals for the home side. The second half had been in progress some time before the foundation of victory was laid, and Devlin had already hit the bar following a desperate and prolonged attack. His persistence was eventually rewarded with a brilliant goal that gave Bailey no chance to save. Shortly afterwards Dobson hit the bar, and Walker, who had been in great form, fired in a shot that Bailey repelled with difficulty, and Devlin got the ball into the net before he could recover. Other ugly situations were safely negotiated by Bailey and his backs, and the end came with Newport sound winners.

The victors certainly gave their best display of the season, and had they put up as good a game in the rest of their home games they would have been nearer the top than the bottom. It was unfortunate for Luton that they caught Newport in this mood, for generally our men have been of a

CHARITABLE DISPOSITION

towards visiting teams. Luton's most sustained effort came shortly before half-time, when they ran round the home defence with apparent ease, and forced several corners. The right wing and Simms were very much in the picture, but there was too much individuality about the efforts, and so they failed.

Cooper would pay testimony to the excellence of Simms' shooting, for on two or three occasions very fine shots were put in by the visiting centre-forward. He led his men well, but the Irish International left wing played a very different game from that they gave against Wales a few weeks ago at Cardiff. Mathieson was clever and Bookman was fast, but they appeared disinclined to run risks, and Mathieson missed one very easy chance just before the end. Hoar was much too fast for Pullen, and he was well pld by Butcher,

whose lack of height was no disadvantage so far as courage was concerned. The right wing did most of the raiding, and with a little luck might have given Luton the lead before crossing over.

The halves generally were

NOT FAST ENOUGH

to hold our nippy forwards. Parker was the best of the three, for his work was marked by intelligence, and his headwork was much admired. Molyneux was not fast enough to hold Gaughan, and while Walsh was a hard worker, he had neither the speed to hold Edwards nor the skill to foil Dobson. The backs kicked remarkably well and showed clever judgment, especially in the first half, but they seemed to tire a lot before the end. Tirrell was very good in all except pace, and once in the first half he saved the goal when Bailey was well beaten. Lennon was skilful and fast, but hesitated to go in when promptitude might have staved off danger. Bailey was the outstanding figure, for he kept goal with real ability, and was often cheered for his coolness and quickness in solving a tough problem.

Cooper did well in the home goal, and McMillan was the better back. Walker was the best of the halves, being the principal in many attacks, while all the forwards played finely, with Devlin most in the eye for his persistency in hustling the backs and in shooting.

It was one of the best games seen at Newport this season, and the 8,000 spectators thoroughly enjoyed it.