

FOOTBALL NOTES

TOWN'S LAST MATCH.

GILLINGHAM Nil.

LUTON TOWN Nil.

GILLINGHAM. — Brantfield; Robertson, Sissons; Thompson, Waugh, Needham; Battiste, Howard, Wood, Hall, Wright.

LUTON TOWN.—Bailey; Hull, Tirrell; Molyneux, Parker, Walsh; Hoar, Butcher, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

"Gills" writes:—

Luton Town found a very different side from that which got so soundly thrashed at Luton at Christmastide, and will probably agree that if the season had a few more weeks to run, Gillingham would not be the wooden spoonists. For the greater part of the first half Luton were kept on the defensive, for their forwards and halves showed little ability to make head-way against a virile defence and a fast forward line. Unfortunately for Gillingham, the home forwards were not so good in front of goal as they were in midfield, or they must have taken

AN AMPLE REVENGE

for the defeat they sustained at Luton. The second half enabled us to get occasional glimpses of the real Luton forwards, but at no time did they appear particularly anxious to get goals, and before the end Gillingham made desperate efforts to get through, but the forwards made some most remarkable misses, and with Bailey in good form the points were shared.

In the opening half, Battiste and Wright were often getting through Luton's defence, and some excellent chances were served up to the inside men, but when they did get in a shot they found Bailey both agile and resourceful. Bookman and Hoar were very troublesome, but Waugh kept a close watch on Simms and prevented him getting in many shots. Butcher and Mathieson, each in his own way, were frequently causing trouble, and on one occasion there was

A KEEN STRUGGLE

in the home goal mouth, when the visiting inside forwards got Gillingham's defence in a tangle. In another instance Simms fired in a great drive and made the spectators gasp, but Brantfield was quite safe, and later Mathieson tested the home goal-keeper with a fierce shot. Bailey had more work than Brantfield, however, and he made some excellent saves, one from Howard eliciting cheers. The Luton goal-keeper with a fierce shot. Bailey had more especially when the home winger got going, but he pulled through to the interval all right.

Whether or not anything was said to the Luton halves during the interval I know not, but they played much better in the second half, and the home forwards found progress very difficult. On the other hand, Luton's line still failed to shake off the harassing attentions of the Gillingham middle men, Waugh especially playing a great game against three

LIVELY AND ELUSIVE

opponents. Brantfield had more to do, and he saved good shots from Mathieson and Simms, while Butcher once got in a deceitful shot that Brantfield cleverly covered. The home side made a big effort in the

closing stages, but they could not beat down the stalwart Luton defence, and the end came without a goal.

Branfield was safe, as usual, and Robertson and Sissons again gave a good display, kicking finely and tackling with spirit. Waugh was the pick of the halves, and he let Simms have

NO PEACE

from the start to the end. He was well flanked, although Needham found Hoar a wily customer. The home forwards finished very badly, although their mid-field work was good, and Battiste and Wright were the pick.

Bailey kept goal splendidly for Luton, and ranks with the best custodians seen at Gillingham. His backs were not thoroughly reliable. Hull missed on several occasions while Tirrell took matters rather too coolly against such a tearaway fellow as Wood. The halves were very poor in the first half, and left too big a share of the work to the defence. Molyneux and Parker afterwards showed glimpses of exceptional cleverness, and Walsh had the genius of hard work. The forwards were equally disappointing for long periods, but now and then they proved that they could play bright football, and that they were fast and tricky. Hoar and Butcher were the better wing, and they showed much nicer understanding than the left wing, where Bookman got little attention from his own men. Mathieson's cleverness elicited admiration until it was overdone, but Simms was very closely watched and had few chances.