

FOOTBALL

VALUABLE POINTS.

Luton Gather Full Complement From Brentford.

(By CRUSADER.)

LUTON TOWN 3 Goals
BRENTFORD Nil
LUTON TOWN.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Foster, Walker, Roe; Bassett, Higginbotham, Simms, Butcher, Bookman.
BRENTFORD.—Young; Alton, Bethune; J. Elliott, Hunter, Kerr; Capper, T. Elliott, Morris, Norton, Hendren.

Referee: Mr. F. Dawson, London.

Nearly everybody to whom I spoke on Saturday night assured me that the Town were very lucky—some said were lucky to avoid defeat. While agreeing that the "Bees" did not deserve to be in such arrears at the finish, I think we deserved victory. Not because the Town ever reached the superlative, but because they kept plugging away against the tide of adverse circumstance. The Town's experience was similar to that of a billiard player for whom the balls will not run favourably, however hard he tries. "Then late in the game he manages to get in a good shot, to be followed by a gorgeous fluke, and so he runs home to victory.

For it must be admitted that the first goal

was deserved, the second was the biggest streak of luck the Town have had in the matter of goal-getting this season, and the third one of those agents that are well described by the adjective "adventitious." To that extent we were "lucky," but were we not unlucky? The strong wind the Town had to face in the first half took a good deal of sting out of them, and with Bassett having to retire after about ten minutes' play,

A HEAVY LOAD

was thrown on the other ten. Brentford played well, undoubtedly, and the run of the play would have been more accurately reflected if the Town had won by a goal to nil. And we deserved to win because, if not stronger forward, we had the better men in other departments.

The visitors were slightly the more aggressive in the first half, and what I liked about their play was its wholeheartedness. They all strove to help one another without any fuss, and had they been quicker on the ball they would probably have scored. As it was, Bailey made two very fine saves in this half, and either shot was worth a goal. In the first minute Hendren drove in a mighty shot that Bailey just managed to touch upwards, and the ball grazed the bar and went over. In the second case he made a magnificent spring and reached a fine shot Morris had directed with correct aim at the farther point of the goal. Young had not anything quite so difficult as this, yet he was more fortunate, for on one occasion he was twenty yards from goal when he was beaten and Bethune stopped the ball close to the goal line and cleared. In the second half Bailey had not quite so much work. Young had a good deal more, but not nearly as much as he should have had, or

would have had, if the Town forwards had taken shooting chances, or shot with any reasonable

DEGREE OF ACCURACY.

The game was fairly clean, but would have been more so had the referee been as capable as he was earnest. I don't know if it was his first big match, but he appeared to get lost at times, and some of his decisions were crude. The 9,000 spectators were satisfied with the result if not with the quality of the play.

THE GOALS.

The game was 75 minutes old before a goal was scored. Then Bookman got away, and although tackled by Alton and Elliott, he managed to tap the ball in front, and after it had been pushed out once it came to HIGGINBOTHAM, who shot into the net very neatly with his left foot. As soon as the game was restarted, a big kick sent the ball goalwards again. BETHUNE trapped it, and after waiting for Simms and Higginbotham to tackle him, kicked it back to Young. The latter had run out, and to his mortification the ball was sent past him and rolled into the net, Young being powerless to overtake it. Five minutes later Butcher dribbled just inside the penalty area, and Alton's hand snatched the ball off the Town forward's foot. A penalty was promptly awarded, and SIMMS crashed the ball into the net. The issue was then right beyond doubt.

Bailey once more kept a clean sheet. I have referred to his best work, but he again showed the tendency to delay his clearance, and twice the ball struck a defender close in when Bailey tried to get it away. The backs were strong and generally safe. Lennon and Hendren had many duels, and the latter,

profiting by his experience of the previous week, usually centred before the Scot got to close quarters. Tirrell found T. Elliott and Capper

SOMEWHAT LIVELY.

but showed strategical sagacity in the first half, when the least laxity might have meant goals. The halves, again, proved the most potent force in the game. It is difficult to individualise where three men are of style so diverse and yet each is so thoroughly effective. In the case of Foster we had the exuberant worker, full of spirit and dash, shirking nothing and taking and giving knocks with a pertinacity that was altogether admirable. If he had a fault it was in leaving Hendren too much alone. Walker again played with craftsmanship, and his powers of recovery were exemplified more than once, but the way he retrieved a misunderstanding between himself and Tirrell in the first half was great, and Morris was thoroughly surprised when on the point of shooting he found that the ball was not there. Just before the end Walker and Foster took their usual hand in attack, and a terrific shot by the former nearly knocked all the sense out of Alton, who met the ball with his head. For a few seconds Alton staggered like a drunken man. Roe was once more on his best behaviour, and his judgment in tackling and placing was delightful. He is playing better than ever now, and the crowd were full of admiration for his work.

The forwards did not relish either the task of facing the wind or its assistance, and were not so good as the previous week, although

MOST INDUSTRIOUS.

Bassett started well and was unlucky to get hurt so early. He sustained a nasty wound on the hip, but he showed his pluck by turn-

FOOTBALL.

ON THE TOWN GROUND.

MONDAY NEXT.

THE LEAGUE: DIVISION III.

LUTON TOWN

v.

READING.

KICK-OFF 3.15 P.M.

ing out in the second half, and, crippled as he was, did one or two useful things. His absence for so long in the first half was a severe drawback, although Higginbotham tried to do the work of two men. The latter earned his splendid goal, for he displayed dash and craft. He doesn't shoot often enough, or he would get more goals. Simms led the line in his own skilful way, but he does not seem able to get on the right track for scoring—because, in my view, he does not trust himself as much as he used to. Butcher worked as hard and untiringly as ever, and his bringing and sending should have had better recompense. Bookman was our best forward again. He did not get as much work as the previous week, but he ran and dribbled well, and was always too fast for the opposition when the ball was rightly placed.

LUTON FAIL TO IMPRESS.

Brentford Not Three Goals the Interior Side.

Luton Town..... 3 Brentford..... 0

The result of the Luton-Brentford game may be in accordance with expectations, but the run of the play was not. Neither is the score a true indication of the merits of the teams, for taking into consideration the fact that Bassett was off the field for 10 minutes in the first half, and a passenger in the second, Luton showed anything but convincing form, and the visitors had quite as much of the game.

The game was 75 minutes old when first blood was drawn, and the visitors seemed content to play for a draw. Then Bookman, who had been quite the best forward on the field, dashed away and centred and Higginbotham netted with a lovely shot. A minute later Bethune passed back to Young, but the latter had run out of goal and the ball went into the net. Five minutes later Alton handled in the penalty area, and Simms scored.

Young had no more to do than Bailey. But he saved one or two awkward shots. Alton was a fine back, and Kerr was the pick of three stalwart halves. In the forward line Henderson did splendid work on the wing, while Morris was a thrustful but luckless leader.

For Luton, Bailey made two grand saves in the first half, but the rest of his work was long-range stuff. Lennon was a tower of strength at back, and Tirrell played with judgment. The middle men were the main factors both in defence and attack, and every man did sterling work. The star forward was Bookman, and Higginbotham was a hard worker, but the line as a whole was not a well-oiled machine.

Luton: Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Foster, Walker, Roe; Bassett, Higginbotham, Simms, Ratcher, Bookman.

Brentford: Young; Alton, Bethune; Elliott (J.), Hunter, Kerr; Capper, Elliott (T.), Morris, Norton, Henderson.