

LOOKING FORWARD.

Luton Town's victory on Saturday was not obtained by convincing form. As usual, the defensive section of the side gave little cause for complaint, but the forwards quite failed to realise the brilliance they showed at Brentford the previous week, and we were almost resigned to a draw when victory was practically thrown at us. True, our first goal was a gem, but that was not sufficient assurance. It was a terrible blunder that gave us the second goal, and with it came a feeling of security, while another bit of ill-luck for Brentford gave us a useful third goal.

We just deserved to win, and a margin of three goals was far more than anyone expected after the first hour. It was more than the merits of the Town's play earned in comparison with the work of the "Bees." The visitors started well and kept up a strong game until the second goal was scored, and even after the third goal they kept hard at it, and made strenuous attempts to pierce the Town defence. The fact that Bassett had to be carried off after ten minutes' play was a severe handicap to the Town, then facing wind and sun, but it was not this only that was responsible for the moderate play. There was a lack of that deft footwork and liberal use of the ball that we had on the Saturday previous. And Brentford played a robust, confident game, showing a lot more ginger than had been expected.

Seventy-five minutes passed without a goal. Then Bookman, who had been very lively when he got a chance, got well away and centred, and when the ball was sent out it fell at the feet of HIGGINBOTHAM, and the big forward skilfully shot into the farther corner of the net. A minute later, BETHUNE put through his own goal in passing back to Young, the back being unaware that the goal-keeper had left his charge. It is many a long day since such a goal was seen on the Town ground, and not within my recollection have the Town had such a stroke of luck in such an important game. Then five minutes later Alton handled in trying to stop Butcher. Several who were in position to see clearly, assert that Alton's feet were in the penalty area, but he actually handled the ball outside the line. Still, the referee was close at hand, and was prompt in his decision — a penalty. SIMMS took the shot and scored with a terrific drive.

The "Bees" failed to overcome the Town defenders, although I thought, following the second goal, there was a disposition on the part of one or two to take things too softly. The rearguard was pretty good, and Bailey made a few smart saves, the best being the tipping over of a fierce drive from Hendren in the first stages, and the next best an acrobatic feat that enabled him to cope safely with a shot from Morris. The back play was better than that of the other side, and lacked nothing in strength, but it seemed hardly as resolute as usual. Nevertheless, it was good enough to keep five resolute forwards from getting very close to Bailey. The halves were the powerful department, and played consistently and cleverly, speed and determination being the main feature, while at intervals they drove the forwards to the attack. Bookman was the outstanding figure in the vanguard, and his work, whenever he got a chance, was admirable in every respect. He was not led so frequently or so well as in the first meeting of the teams, but when he got possession he did things. Higginbotham was a great worker, and never spared himself an iota. He is not a glutton for goals, but he is a rare footman for others. Simms' leading was clever, his weakness being in front of goal; Butcher worked with his usual cunning and quickness, and Bassett was doing good work until he was injured. It was very plucky of him to turn out in the second half, and although hobbling about, he did one or two useful things.

For the "Bees," Alton, Kerr, Hendren and Morris were the best.

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.