

LATE FOOTBALL.

Luton Town Win Again.

Luton Town 4 goals

Exeter City Nil

LUTON.—Bailey; Graham, Tirrell; Molyneux, Foster, Roe; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

EXETER CITY.—Fryer; Gaskell, Pollard; Rigby, Mitton, Brown; Newman, Green, Vowles, Williams, Dockray.

Referee: F. P. Farrow, Bristol.

If goals were all that mattered to the spectators who have parted with their silver, then they must have been fairly well satisfied last night. But there is a growing disposition to ask for something more, and it must be confessed that they got very little class football last night. There were times when the play was below the standard of good junior football: aimless kicking, inaccurate passing, ebullitions of temper (but that is perhaps an injustice to junior football), and a lot of talking. Certainly the majority of the onlookers were dissatisfied, and they are now pretty well convinced that Luton Town will not get promotion unless there is a vast improvement in the play throughout the team.

The first goal was hard worked for, and in everything but name Higginbotham was the scorer. The ball would have crossed the line all right, for Fryer had run out and the forward tapped the ball past him. SIMMS, however, came up and touched it through, and if he was not offside, then one group of spectators are badly mistaken. This was the only score before crossing over, but within five minutes of the restart Simms crashed in a shot that Gaskell stopped with his arm, and the referee promptly allowed a penalty—the first Luton have seen in their matches this season. SIMMS took the kick and beat Fryer easily. Simms completed the hat-trick when nine minutes remained for play. Bookman careered through and centred for Simms to put the ball to Hoar. The latter returned it, and SIMMS screwed it into goal away from Fryer. The keeper flung himself at the ball and touched it on to the post, but it crossed the line before he could scramble it out, and the referee promptly allowed the goal. The fourth goal fell to HOAR. A terrific shot by Simms was saved grandly by Fryer, but he could not get the ball away before Hoar tore up at top speed and netted.

Exeter hardly deserved to lose by such a margin. Had the rest of the team been as hardworking and capable as the middle men there would not have been a clean sheet for Luton. In midfield they had as much of the ball as the Town up to the last twenty minutes, but they could not keep it under control at all well, and their shooting was poor.

Harry Fryer could not be blamed for any one of the goals. He did splendidly, and has apparently lost all nervousness, has improved in physique under training, and is going to maintain a place in first-class football. He will do better when he has more reliable backs in front of him, for although Gaskell and Pollard worked hard, and often kicked well, they were not fast enough for the Town wingers and Simms. Brown, who was introduced at half, played strongly, but all three middle men need to be a bit more scrupulous, and it was Brown's indiscretion that initiated the many unpleasant incidents that occurred, although Luton players are not by any means absolved. The front line lacked cohesion, and, apart from Williams and Dockray, they were below par.

Bailey fumbled one shot in the first half, and brought upon his head a lot of criticism, but he saved well on several occasions afterwards. Young Graham played splendidly on his first appearance with the premier team, and George Lennon, nursing a damaged knee, was very happy about it. Graham has made good. He is cool and judicious, and only needs to put on a little more speed to be a fine back. Tirrell played as sturdily as ever, although he was often harassed by faulty play farther forward. The halves more than held their own with the visiting forwards, and Foster's first appearance must be written down as a success. He has not the stamina of Parker, and does not drive his forwards into it with the same zeal, but he is a thoughtful player, and when he is thoroughly fit and a bit quicker on the ball he will retain his place. Roe again got more applause than any other half-back, and his inclusion certainly pleases Bookman, for it gives the little speed merchant a lot more work. Molyneux was much better than on Saturday, and he had to face the better wing. Once he ran through on his own, and had he had the nerve to shoot instead of unselfishly giving Simms the ball he might well have scored.

The forwards were patchy, and again the game was three-parts gone before we saw their best. Had Higginbotham maintained the standard of the first twenty minutes he would probably have been the best forward on the field, but he fell away a good deal; and we never saw Mathieson do much till the closing stages, when, in his inimitable way, he drew about five opponents and then slashed the ball to Hoar, whose work resulted in a goal. Simms worked harder and better than in any previous game, and Bookman must have been agreeably surprised by the amount of work he got. At any rate, he played well up to it, and Simms was more than recompensed for his trouble, for the winger touched his best form. Hoar also was very good, but there is need of better concert in the line as a whole.