

ANOTHER FINE ACHIEVEMENT.

For the first time this season, I could not accompany Luton Town in an "away" match. Usual arrangements had been made, but circumstances arose that prevented the journey. However, I was able to make ample arrangements for the covering of the match, and altogether I ~~was~~ had plenty of material. When for information one has to rely upon the reports of writers who do not know the players except as so many straight strokes and pot-hooks on a postcard, errors are very difficult to avoid, and in the Sunday and Monday papers, as well as in the Welsh papers, there was a difference of opinion as to how the two goals were scored.

According to our special correspondent, Swansea, who started at a tremendous pace, threatened to open the score within a few seconds, but the Town players had got wind of this, and they put up a stern opposition, and might have scored within three minutes of the start. But at the end of seven minutes the "Swans" made an advance by means of the cleverness of Brown, and after the Town defence had successfully baffled Brown, Beynon and Jones, the ball went out to the right, and HOLE dashed in and shot hard. The ball passed several players en route, and would have gone right across goal, for Bailey had placed himself in line and could not reach it, but it just caught Tirrell's foot and turned into goal—a very lucky start. Luton had more of the game after this, and played well enough to draw level had the inside forwards shown a fair amount of accuracy and decision in front of goal, but chances came and went, and the "Swans" in defence, played their hardest, and so the Town were in arrears at the change of ends.

The equalising goal came quite early in the second half after each goal had experienced narrow escapes. A free kick was given against McCallum about thirty yards from goal. Molyneux lifted the ball well in, and Mathieson got his head to it, but Crumley

pushed it out, and BASSETT, who was well on the spot, had the ball in the net in a twinkling. From this point the play was contested at a great pace, with the "Swans" doing the more attacking, but the Town's speedy raids were always more likely to get goals.

The secret of Luton's success lay in the strength and cleverness of their halves and backs. Oft-times the "Swans" played brilliantly in midfield, passing and dribbling with remarkable skill, but the Town halves, when they were passed, would turn round and give chase again, so that by the time the "Swans" got within shooting distance they were usually held up again, and it was surprising how few shots were put in considering the number of times the "Swans" worked within range. It was not much different at the other end, for Robson and Milne offered valiant resistance, but the shooting of the Town forwards left a lot to be desired.

Of course, the Swansea supporters were disappointed at the absence of Simms and Bookman from the English side. The Welsh football follower dearly loves an International, and Bookman is an especial favourite. It had leaked out in Wales that Simms and Mathieson were under suspension the previous Saturday, but Simms was expected to be leading the attack. It cannot be said that Mathieson was an unqualified success at centre-forward. That he showed extraordinary facility in dribbling—better even than W. Y. Brown, and that is saying a lot—cannot be denied, and the way he baffled Collins at times in the second half was quite amusing, but it did not advance the cause of Luton very much, for the simple reason that he was slow in getting the ball out to his wings and in meeting the centres that came over. Swansea perhaps profited a little by the absence of Simms. Butcher was the most effective forward, and he did a lot of splendid work, and unselfishly led both Bassett and Mathieson. He was not in shooting form, however, or he would have won the match for Luton in the first half. Higginbotham had the merits of unselfishness and enthusiasm, but he sacrificed several chances for the purpose of feeding Hoar, who was in sparkling form, his electrifying sprints giving Robson a heap of worry. On the other extreme, Bassett played a great game with Butcher, and the two had an exceptionally good understanding.

Luton's middle men were the strength of the team. Walker was an immense factor in the success of the side, and he quite eclipsed Beynon, who did not know how to get past him. There were two or three occasions when the Luton centre-half called upon himself the reproof of the crowd, especially somewhat late in the game, when he toppled Brown over as the latter essayed to dribble through, and Beynon thought this a good opportunity of getting into notice, but he got little change from the Scot. Roe held up the "Swans' " International wing in clever style, and his feeding of the forwards was a feature of the game, while Molyneux was a lively and energetic worker who kept his wing going practically all the time. Lennon was peerless at back, and his length kicking was practically perfect, while his tackling was hawk-like in pounce and certainty. Tirrell showed better form than he did at Luton, and while his work was in striking contrast with Lennon's in its character, it was wholesome and effective. Bailey gave proof of his skill as a custodian, although he was rather fortunate on two or three occasions. As a team, however, Luton were the smartest side seen on the Vetch Field this season, and if every team played football as cleanly and as enthusiastically, Swansea's gates would soon be doubled. The only incident that called for the serious reproof of the referee, who was a powerful factor of the game, was an occasion early in the second half, when Butcher and McCullum got at variance, and the former expressed a wish to fight. Butcher, however, was too sensible, and tempers were restored when Mr. Pearson prevailed on the players to shake hands.

SWANSEA TOWN 1 goal

LUTON TOWN 1

SWANSEA TOWN.—Crumley; Robson; Milne; Williams; Collins; McCullum; Hole; Jones; Beynon; Brown; Spottiswoode.

LUTON TOWN.—Bailey; Lennon; Tirrell; Molyneux; Walker; Roe; Bassett; Butcher; Mathieson; Higginbotham; Hoar. Referee: Mr. J. F. Pearson, Crewe.