

THIS WAY, FOR PROMOTION.

Luton Town's Sixth Successful Game.

WE are all agreed that Luton Town have done extremely well in the last six matches. After a disappointing start we have come back steadily but surely into the limelight of promotion, and if we could strike a similar note over the rest of the season, that hunger for Division II. football next season would be assuaged.

The next three games are of vital importance, and five out of six points would, indeed, give a tremendous impetus to the team and spectators alike. We have recovered two of the five points dropped in comparison with the results of games last year, and this five out of six would bring us all square again, except in the matter of "goals against."

The other day a supporter was lamenting the weakness of defence, but if we analyse the scoring we find that the mishaps of the first two games account for the difference between our record this year and last against the same opponents. On the other hand our credit account is improved by a couple of goals, and taking into consideration the misfortune to Thompson and the chopping and changing of the line, this is

HIGHLY SATISFACTORY

from a results aspect. The players themselves have been the principal sufferers in comparison with the games last year, for they have drawn one full bonus less.

That the spectators had full value for their money in the first half alone last Saturday cannot be disputed, but, after all, the Town supporters want to see something more than that. They expect and should receive as full a success as possible, and they did not get it. More than once I have referred to the habit of some of the Town's players in easing up when victory seems assured, and I have heard players advance the excuse that when the other side has no chance of winning it is inviting trouble to pile on the agony. None of us agrees with that, for if it makes no difference to the most important column in the League table, it affects two others, and at the end of a season one goal may make all the difference between promotion and "stay-where-you-are."

Aberdare were soundly beaten on the result, but they were not beaten on the field until the final whistle went, and they were disposed to think at the end of the game that they were

VICTIMS OF MISFORTUNE

rather than merit, and they will feel when they turn out next Saturday at home that they have a good chance to avenge this defeat.

For nearly an hour the Town played the right sort of football, a winning game, dash and vigour blended with skill, but thereafter they were the inferior side, and a newcomer to the field during the last twenty minutes would hardly have believed that the Town could have been four goals ahead.

The change in the game was exasperating to the supporters, and there was some excuse for the irritation they showed. The machine that had evoked enthusiasm in the first half came unstuck, some of the parts became misplaced and interfered with the mechanism elsewhere, and it was consequent upon this that tempers were frayed, and what had previously been a fairly pleasant game, was imbued with bitterness.

If the result were more satisfactory than at Swindon, the football was

NOT SO CLEVER.

What we gained by the inclusion of Thompson was lost by the exclusion of Butcher. The big centre-forward's success on his re-appearance was very popular, and he gave us leadership such as we have not had for the last month. Not only did he play with fine judgment and keep his men together when they responded to his call, but his height and weight were a continual menace to the Aberdare goal. I fancy that he will keep the Town in the forefront of goal-scoring teams.

In the first half he and Higginbotham showed splendid understanding, and the latter was more effective than he has been for the last month, because there was someone to share the task of the heavy artillery. He could give more time to help Hoar and show more indi-

viduality. Why he fell back in the second half was more than we could understand, for the halves had proved fully capable of holding their own.

It was much the same with Reid, and I share the general opinion that this boy

MAY BE SPOILT

unless he is better used. He came as a centre forward, but it is generally recognised that he will do better if he is trained into an inside winger; that training should be gradual, for he has much to learn. Fortunately he is a sensible youngster, and we may look forward to finding him a powerful agent of the first team some day before long, but he is not yet ripe for it. He did not help Clarkson very much, with the result that the latter was almost starved in the first half, and in the second his few chances were received mainly from Thompson. We all like the little Welshman, for he is a splendid little chap, but he is young—probably the youngest player in the whole of the League on Saturday—and has not yet reached full strength and stamina. He is an opportunist, and only wants the polish of experience to make the fine player we hope for. That will be the day when he cannot be wisely omitted, but it is in the future.

Hear was

ALWAYS IN THE PICTURE

in the first half, for Higginbotham saw that he got plenty of work, and three of the goals in the game came from his centres. He would have done more damage in the second half if that co-operation had been maintained. Clarkson was not the player we saw at Swindon, because he had nothing like the amount of work. When he got the pass he almost invariably did well with it, and on three occasions in the second half he made splendid runs, and centres that deserved goals.

Our half-backs were the main source of strength once more. Walker found Martin again an admirable controller of the ball, and not all the honours went to the Town's player. Walker had the better of the many tussles while left to shape his own course, and he proved once more his genius as a tackler, and frequently sent through the men in front of him. Foster's bonny style reduced the visiting left wing to all but despair, and his understanding with Lennon

NULLIFIED MANY RAIDS.

while he took a strong part in several raids. Ree was up against the most astute player of the opposition—Tompkinson—and he accomplished a hard afternoon's work with credit, and as cleanly as ever.

Lennon and Tirrell were strong and sure until late in the game. The Town captain played finely in the first half, but in the later stages he was less judicious, and a bigger demand was made upon Lennon, who came to the rescue many times when the visitors were on the point of success. Gibbon again did well in goal, and had no chance with the shot that scored.

The visitors were severely handicapped, for they have lost the services of Price, the right back, who is suspended for a month; Brooke, left back, on the injured list, and one or two forwards in similar plight, and the team had to be reconstructed. The defenders were fortunate to keep the score down to four, but the forwards played clever football in the open, the short passing and dribbling often reaching

A HIGH STANDARD.

but they were not strong enough at close quarters against the Town halves and backs.

Duckworth did well in goal, and Morgan was a good back. Hughes was the pick of the halves, and Martin, Tompkinson and Danskin were smart forwards.

The brief record of the game, which was witnessed by nearly 9,000 spectators, is: HIGGINBOTHAM headed through from Hear's corner kick after 19 minutes' play; THOMPSON notched the second with a fast low drive nine minutes later; REID registered the third eight minutes before the change of ends, and at half-time Luton led by 3-0.

In the second half THOMPSON headed through from Hear's centre after 15 minutes' play, and SHELDON scored for Aberdare about six minutes from the end after Martin had hit the bar.

LUTON TOWN		4 goals
ABERDARE		1 goal