

GILLINGHAM'S WIN.

At Gillingham on Good Friday.

GILLINGHAM 1 goal

LUTON TOWN Nil

GILLINGHAM.—Fox; Robertson, Bettridge; Thompson, Henderson, Needham; Battiste, Freeman, Williams, Hall, Palmer.

LUTON. — Gibbon; Stephenson, Tirrell; Molyneux, Jennings, Roe; Henderson, Butcher, Reid, Hoten, Clarkson.

Referee: Mr. E. Butler, London.

The game at Gillingham was just about what we expected, for it is characteristic that clubs fighting for their existence in the League should put up a "win somehow" game.

From the aspect of scientific football the Town were much the smarter side individually. They could hold the ball and keep it on the carpet better, but this game was beaten by enthusiasm and energy born of desperation. Gillingham just gritted their teeth and went all out from start to finish. Beyond that their merits are few, but that one quality was the factor that decided the game. The only goal came eight minutes after the interval, and was the result of a decision that should never have been made. Hall was about to head the ball when Jennings rushed up, and leaping high above

him, headed the ball. Hall bent his back, with the result that Jennings toppled clean over him, performing a somersault. The referee gave a free kick against Jennings, who had never attempted to play the man, whereas Hall should have been penalised for "setting a back." From the free kick, well placed by Bettridge, WILLIAMS headed into the net as Gibbon ran out to punch away.

Because of their grim struggle, the tenacity with which they held on to their lead and the whole-hearted way in which they strove, I certainly would not begrudge the Kent men their success, although the Town forwards had chances enough to win the game if they could have taken them. The absence of Hear from the forward line was not fully repaired by Henderson, who started well but had to be helped off the field a quarter of an hour after the interval as the result of a severe blow on the spine from a dangerous tackle by Needham. The ex-Arsenal man did better than in the friendly game with Watford, especially in the early stages, but he faded away before the interval and missed several chances. The line never got going well. Reid did little beyond firing in a few good shots. Hoten was not as good as in previous games, and Butcher and Clarkson were the only forwards to maintain anything like their usual form, although, curiously enough, both were suffering from bad throats. Jennings was the most conspicuous player on the field, and played a wonderful game against a side whose tactics were to his liking. Roe was a long time before touching his best, but Molyneux was a capital worker. Tirrell was in great form again, and it was well, for Stephenson was not in happy mood, and made many mistakes. Gibbon was not to blame in any way, and made some splendid saves.

Gillingham were best served by Bettridge, Needham, and Williams, the last-named playing splendidly at centre-forward.