

LUTON'S BRILLIANT PERFORMANCE.

SHOOTING SUCCESS.

Kerr Scores Four Goals Consecutively.

(By "CRUSADER.")

By virtue of their magnificent win at the expense of Bournemouth and Boscombe on Saturday Luton Town climbed up three places in the League table, and so reached the position in which they finished last season. When one bears in mind that two months ago they were at the bottom of the League this is little short of amazing. The progress has been something more than rapid, too; it has been deserved, for it has been achieved by reason of all-round improvement in the play of the team, and the policy of the directors in maintaining the winning side with as little change as possible has been well repaid.

Bournemouth's record did not suggest anything like the glut of goals we saw. They had forfeited only a goal per match, a better average than that of Swansea, and so we never expected the Town, who had scored only six goals in seven games, to score six goals inside of ninety minutes. Everybody knows, however, that the Town forwards have deserved to win in matches where they have lost points, and it was felt that sooner or later some team would get the experience that Portsmouth had when they came to see us, and that Kerr would come into his own as he did on that occasion. For several weeks I have been hammering at the necessity of the inside wing forwards giving Kerr more room to operate. Green did not altogether satisfy in this respect, but Butcher did, and both of them did so in the second half, and then distributed their passes evenly between their partners and Kerr. The result was the constant struggle of the visiting backs to beat off either the Town wingers or Kerr, and they faltered under the exaction, with the result that Kerr scored four goals in succession—a brilliant feat. Before he did so he had shown thoughtful methods of opening up the game, and the Bournemouth defence had a sorry time of it.

Starting like winners, the Town were soon attacking, and HOAR took a long pass from Green and beat Heron after only four minutes' play. There was no other goal to the Town in the first half, but DAVEY equalised after Miller had made wing play look simple, and so the "Cherries" crossed over on equal terms.

Early in the second half HOAR scored from a penalty kick after Leitch had handled in the penalty area. Twelve minutes later KERR scored a glorious goal after receiving a useful pass from Millar. Following a lot of pressure by the Town, KERR scored the fourth goal while the Town players were appealing for a penalty kick after Green had been brought down in the area by Lamb. KERR followed with another magnificent shot that scored all the way from fifteen yards' range, and then completed the tally of six goals by netting after Hoten had shot against Heron's legs. More goals should have come, for the Town pressed severely, but DAVEY notched another for the visitors in the last minute, and so the Town retired winners by a good margin.

It was a pleasant game generally, there being few fouls, and, considering the heavy ground, play was remarkably fast and enterprising. From the aspect of combination the Town were easily the better side, and their play was marked by better understanding and more thought for position than at any time for seasons past. The defence was none too sure, for Gibbon appeared to be troubled by the skittish antics that the ball was inclined to take, and the backs were not always comfortable. Anderson played a fine game, and Graham did well, although the visiting right-winger bothered him a good deal. Both kicked well, and again showed a nice appreciation of the position of the forwards. The halves were strong all along the line. Jennings played as powerfully as ever, Walker and Millar being almost equal with him, and all three opened out the game well. The forwards played together grandly, the passing was accurate and nippy, and the control generally very smart, a feature being the way the passes were kept on the carpet. Kerr stood first by reason of his four goals, but not for any other reason, as there was little to choose among them, all playing bright and thoughtful football. The visitors were well served by Heron, Lamb, Leitch and the forwards.

LUTON 6
BOURNEMOUTH 2

LUTON.—Gibbon; Anderson, Graham; Walker, Jennings, Millar; Hoar, Green, Kerr, Butcher, Hoten.

BOURNEMOUTH. — Heron; Saxton, Lamb; Butf, Smith, Leitch; Miller, Voisey, Davey, Armstrong, Robinson.

Referee: Mr. T. J. Duke, Harlesden.