

WELL BEATEN!

LUTON TOWN'S GOOD-BYE TO THE CUP.

THE ARSENAL'S THREE QUICK GOALS.

(By "CRUSADER").

THE ARSENAL 4 goals
LUTON TOWN 1 goal

THE ARSENAL.—Robson; Mackie, Baker; Milne, Graham, Young; Dr. Paterson, Blyth, Turnbull, Woods, Haden.

LUTON TOWN.—Orr; Anderson, Till; Walker, Jennings, Millar; Hoar, Green, Kerr, Butcher, Hoten.

Referee: Mr. G. N. Watson, Nottingham
Linesmen: Messrs. C. R. Newman and P. H. Y. Bloys.

Not one of the thousands of spectators at Highbury who went from Luton could cavil at the result. The Arsenal rose out of themselves and played a fine game, winning on their merits. We may as well admit that at once, but, equally so, there was no fair-minded supporter but would agree that something could very properly be said of Luton in extenuation of the extent of the defeat.

It is bad enough to be drawn away from home year after year, but when one gets on foreign soil and then finds that the opposition has also been fortunate enough to receive all the natural advantages that are going, there is some excuse for fatalism.

Highbury is not high enough to be out of the mire. On Saturday morning a huge tarpaulin was dragged across the ground to remove a few layers of the thick, glue-like mud, for there was even too much of it for the Arsenal players, who are reputed to be most at home in it. How much was carted away I do not know, but there was still scope for the further exercise of this phase of ingenuity. Added to that, the fact that there was a stiff breeze blowing from goal to goal, and it was obvious that the captain winning the toss had

AN IMMENSE ADVANTAGE.

Jennings' lucky star was not in the ascendant, and, with a pensive grin, Graham indicated that he would like his men to travel with the wind.

That was the first, and, in my opinion, the main factor in the Town's defeat, the mud being the second. Splendidly as the Arsenal played, and they were at the top of their form, according to their own supporters, the strain of struggling against the breeze took a tremendous lot out of the Town in the first half, and although they were pretty equal, and for long periods better than the "Gunners" in the second half, they had lost too much ground to be able to retrieve.

In the opening stages, for a matter of fifteen minutes, there was not an Arsenal supporter within my hearing that would have fancied his club's chances of getting into the second round. Thus early it was evident that whatever Luton might achieve, their right wing would be the instrument. Hoar and Green, working with refreshing pace and skill, got the Arsenal defence in

TANGLE AFTER TANGLE.

and when Hoar got past Baker with the sinuous ease of an eel, and banged the ball square in front, the spectators went nearly frantic. From one of those Kerr rushed in, and Mackie, heading anywhere, sent the ball against his own cross-bar, whence it dropped for Robson to clear before the Town inside forwards could realise the chance. There were other spasms as exciting before the Arsenal got their first goal, a fluky success. Paterson, who showed wonderful dexterity, managed to wrest a flag-kick, but the ball was beaten out. MILNE, 20 yards out, and at an angle, swung the ball into the goal. It was not a particularly fast shot, but Orr's hands went up much too late. As I saw it, Orr's view was partially obscured, but even so I think that the goal should have been prevented.

The value of the first goal was exemplified in the events that followed. The Arsenal played up strongly. Their inside forwards operated

ON THE MUD PATCH

with marked skill and precision, and drew the defenders cleverly before swinging the ball out to the wings. Haden hit the bar with a beauty, and as the ball dropped dead in the mud in the goal-mouth, BLYTH rushed it into the net. The Town made gallant attempts, but were out of luck, and Robson made some brilliant saves, especially from Hoar. On the other hand, when Paterson got through and lobbed the ball into the goal-mouth, Anderson, Orr and Woods all went for it, and the ball fell on to the head of WOODS and thence into the net. Those were the goals before the interval. The Town made strenuous efforts, and Robson saved in masterly style from Hoar, Green and Kerr. Once the ball dropped right at the feet of Kerr and Butcher a yard out of goal, but the angle was narrow, and Butcher sent just wide. The second half found the Town start-

ing strongly, but the disposition of the Arsenal defenders was smart, and all efforts were frustrated. A goal at this juncture would have done the Town a lot of good, and they certainly deserved one. There was

A RED-HOT STRUGGLE

in front of Robson, and shots were pelted in, but rebounded off friend or foe, and at length the ball was got away by Young.

The Arsenal then took up the running again, but Orr was not seriously troubled, and Robson had the more work, but the understanding between the Arsenal forwards was very fine, and both Haden and Paterson wanted a lot of holding. Turnbull played well to his colleagues, and they pushed the ball up the middle for him to make several dashing runs. Once he got within a few feet of Orr and then turned the ball wide, but a similar dribble a little later enabled him to score in clever fashion. The Town did not lose heart, and with Butcher and Hoten changing places, the left wing worked better than before, and it was a rush by Hoten and Kerr that enabled GREEN to score nine minutes from the end with a ground shot, Robson shaping to take the ball one way, but it came across and he was too late for it. I thought he was at fault.

So the Town retired vanquished, but not disgraced.

COMMENTS.

The most potent factor in the game was the wonderful understanding between the Arsenal forwards and half-backs. Here was the secret of the Arsenal's strength, and as I watched "the follow-up," the real support received by the Arsenal forwards, there came before me a picture of the Isle of Dogs, with Luton Town engaged in a match with Millwall. It was the first time I ever saw Luton, and the most impressive feature was the work of Bob Hawkes behind Bert Moody and Bob Latheron. That was about 16 or 17 years ago, and it was this clever following up and plying of the men in front that marked the Arsenal half-back play as so much better than the Town. At goal, half-back and inside-forward, they were cleverer and quicker than the Town, but I preferred the Town backs to theirs. The Arsenal machine, generally speaking, was an ordered whole, but the Town's was deficient in many respects. Orr did some good work, but it was patent that he lacked experience. I think that the first and third goals should have been prevented; the fourth was offside. Anderson and Till played as well as they could be expected to play when the burden of responsibility lay so heavily upon them. Dr. Paterson is a rare trouble for any opposition, and in the first half Till was often puzzled, but in the long run the honours were divided, for Till played magnificently, especially in the second half, and was frequently cheered for brilliant tackling. Anderson was better in the first half than in the second, but he impressed the Arsenal by his coolness and judgment. Of the halves Walker gave the best display. Taking the game as a whole, Millar did some smart things at times, but the brainiest work came from Walker, who played coolly and thoughtfully, tackled keenly and fed well, and not far short of the best game he has given for a long time. Millar kept Paterson fairly close company in the first half, but was disposed to leave him rather too much in the second. He played pluckily. Jennings was very disappointing in the first half, and was frequently

A SECOND TOO LATE

in his tackling, and it was not until the second half was under weigh that he came anywhere near what was expected from him. Then he did fine work, but there was missing a good deal of his natural exuberance. Hoar and Green were the better wing, and the former was the outstanding forward. His thrilling runs kept Baker on tenterhooks, and it was not by speed alone, but by sheer artistry that he got past the Arsenal back, while his centres and shots deserved goals. Green played well to him, and was always a hard worker, and took a lot of moving for possession. Hoten shone only occasionally, and his opportunities were limited. When he changed places with Butcher in the second half his strength made a difference in the attack. Butcher was handicapped by the heavy ground, and could not get moving happily. Kerr was well shadowed by Graham, and got few opportunities to shoot, but he made some nice passes, short and long. As a line, however, the forwards did not combine with consistent effect.

THE ARSENAL

have a good goalkeeper in Robson, for he is smart in taking position and as agile as a cat. He fielded well. Mackie

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(Continued from previous column.)

and Baker did not impress greatly. The former was the cooler and steadier. All the halves played well, with Graham the dominating factor. The forwards reaped the benefit, and there was not a weak spot in the line, for although Turnbull is not a star artist, he is capable of taking advantage of the work of his colleagues, who kept the ball low and varied their style cleverly.

Mr. Watson refereed well, but I thought he should have been more decisive in penalising one player who showed a tendency to petulance when beaten.

It was a good Cup-tie game, and the 37,000 spectators, who paid £2,315 for admission, were delighted with the Red Cross Band's performance before the game.

The Lord Mayor of London, the Lady Mayoress, the Sheriffs and their ladies, the Hon. Geoffrey Howard, M.P., Mr. Thos. Keens, M.P., and Mrs. Keens, saw the game, and before the start the Lord Mayor shook hands with the players and officials.