

Second Home Defeat.

Luton Fail Against Plymouth.

(By "CRUSADER").

From the football standpoint, the game between Luton Town and Plymouth Argyle at Luton must rank as one of the best seen at the Town ground this last two seasons, and it is fairly safe to say that from the Luton aspect it must also rank as one of the bitterest disappointments the supporters have endured, and the team also, for that matter, for they must have known that they were putting up a game far superior in the general play to that of the Argyle, but the consistently clever play in midfield was spoilt by the monotonous regularity with which the inside forwards failed to push home their advantages.

The Argyle could not be grudged their success, because their defence withstood a withering ordeal, and we saw some of the cleverest back play and goalkeeping that has been seen on the Town ground for many a long day. In the first half the Town overplayed the Argyle halves and backs, and Craig gave a brilliant exposition of goalkeeping. In the second half the home team were still on top, but as the game progressed and their efforts were nailed they began to fall away, and the Argyle had more of the game than before.

The difference between the teams was that the Argyle concentrated chiefly on defence, and then banged the ball about when they got it out of danger at their end, and by this means they carried out many raids with great speed and vigour, and gave the Town defenders a harassing time whenever the chance came their way.

The close work of the Town forwards, while the dribbling was often dazzling, did not inspire, for the Argyle backs showed keen perception, and invariably tackled at the right moment, blocking the way home.

The only goal of the first half came from WALKER, the Argyle inside left, who pounced on the ball on the edge of the penalty area after one raid had been beaten back, and, with a hard shot, had the satisfaction of seeing the ball pass into the net close to the upright. The second goal came four minutes from the end, FOWLER making a dashing solo effort and beating the backs before winding up with a great shot that struck the bar and fell over the line. It was a fine goal.

Territorial advantage does not count for much unless there is the ability to round off the attacks with efficient marksmanship, and that was the deficiency that deprived the Town of the fruits of their sparkling midfield play.

Apart from an occasional faltering against the vigorous attacks of the Argyle forwards, I do not think that the Town backs were at fault, and Till was a strong factor. Graham did good work, but was not so confident as usual. Gibbon could not be held blameworthy, but he had not much to do. The halves played clever football, and while Roe found Cherrett and Corcoran a pretty warm handful, he did well against them. Walker put up a grand game, and in spooning and feeding alike was at his very best. Anderson also was very good, but apt to allow his exuberance to carry him too far forward at times, with the result that Batten often got more chances than he should have had.

Nevertheless, the middle line was good. Hoar and Danskin were the best forwards. They were speedy, and both got the ball into the middle with remarkable judgment. Occasionally Hoar gave the ball too much boot, but he supplied enough centres had the inside men been smart enough to take advantage of them.

Kerr was well watched, and it was not until late in the game that he realised the desirability of slinging the ball out to the wings, and all three were disposed to retain possession too long. Green probably had the best chances, but he found the Welsh International a very hot proposition, and he was usually too slow in taking his chances. Hoten hung too far back for the greater part of the game, but he gave Danskin some nice passes, and the winger responded well.

Argyle owed most to their fine goalkeeper, Craig, and to Russell, for both were in grand form, and while Forbes was useful he did not reach the level of Russell. Preston was the pick of a hard-working trio, and Corcoran and Fowler in the front line.

There were over 8,000 spectators, and they saw a splendid game, but were bitterly disappointed with the result.

PLYMOUTH ARGYLE 2 goals

LUTON TOWN Nil

LUTON.—Gibbon; Graham, Till; Anderson, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Green, Kerr, Hoten, Danskin.

PLYMOUTH.—Craig; Forbes, Russell; Logan, Preston, Ross; Corcoran, Cherrett, Fowler, Walker, Batten.

Referee: Mr. E. C. Sambrook, Swansea.



• ROE •



• CRAIG •