

Luton Lose Again.

NEWPORT SCORE THE ONLY GOAL.

(By "CRUSADER").

After the failure of Luton Town to account for Plymouth Argyle at Luton, there were few who expected them to improve their position as the result of their visit to Newport. So well have they done on their visits to the Monmouthshire seaport, however, that it was hoped to bring away at least one point, but they failed, and they went down the League table one step as a result.

Newport scored the only goal of the match five minutes from the end, and it was a very lucky goal, for CHARLTON took a lunge at the ball as it came from the left, and although there was no attempt at aim or direction, the ball went at a great pace into the farther corner of the net right away from Gibbon, who had not the slightest chance to save.

The conditions were not ideal for play, although they were excellent for the on-lookers, who numbered 8,000. The sun was warm and bright, and the ground was firm, so that the light ball was very difficult to keep under control. Frequently when the players appeared to have a good chance of going through, the ball would rise awkwardly off the ground and then spin away at a tangent. But this, of course,

AFFECTED BOTH SIDES.

In the first half the Town played well enough to have slightly the better of the game, although there were a few thrills at each end. Both goals had narrow escapes, but there seemed to be something being held in reserve by the Town team, and when the cross-over was made with a clean sheet, there were hopes that the Town would rise to the occasion and bring off a victory.

That was not to be, however, and if the Town had anything in reserve it was never brought out. Only at rare intervals were they dangerous, and Gibbon had far more exacting work than Carr.

Defeat was due, in my opinion, to the

lack of combination among the forwards, and they themselves would admit that they have never played worse during the whole of this season — not even in those first weeks when they lost so many games. There were a few smart individual efforts during the first half, but of the clever dribbling we have so often seen, and of passing among the forwards, there was practically nothing. Only once in the game do I remember the Town forwards making a decent run as a

line, and that

took them clean through, but the goal was missed by sheer bad luck, for

KERR HIT THE BAR,

and several strong shots rebounded from defenders who got in the way, they knew not how.

This was the main fault of the Town team, the best part of which was the middle line, where all played splendid football, and where Foster touched his best. Walker and Roe played fine scientific football, and worked hard from beginning to end. The backs recovered from a somewhat indifferent start, and in the second half they withstood fierce and continuous attack for a long time, and it would be unfair to say that one was better than the other. Gibbon gave one of his best exhibitions of the season, and with the shot that scored he had not the slightest chance.

The forwards seem to have quite lost their cleverness as a line. The wingers had very few chances, for the passes were inaccurate in pace and direction, and seemed always to reach the foot of an opponent. Hoar has not been so much out in the cold for a long, long time, and Danskin had not a wonderful amount of work. Inside there was an entire absence of blend and understanding, and when the danger did come it was chiefly through individual rushes, made without any appreciation of the positional advantage of other forwards. All the inside men were

OFF COLOUR,

Hoten falling away after a good start, and each was trying to be a power to himself.

On the other hand, the Newport players made progress by their readiness to part to a colleague, and their enthusiasm was on top note. Individually, I am certain that the Town players are better, and had they been capable of blending, they would have won.

White, at back, was the outstanding player of the home side, but the halves did well, and the forwards if not Brit-



• TILL •

liant, were workers to a man, and showed speed and courage.

NEWPORT COUNTY ... 1 goal

LUTON TOWN Nil

NEWPORT.—Carr; White, Dimmock;
Whitton, Nairn, Carney; Charlton, Bell,
Conner, Lowes, Cook.

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