

ANOTHER SORRY SHOW.

LUTON TOWN ONLY DRAW AT HOME.

(By "CREADER.")

Ordinary enthusiasts among the supporters of Luton Town now find the study of the League table an almost unbearable proposition. Four months ago the Town met and defeated Millwall in both games, and we talked of what a much better side we had than they. Yet to-day Millwall figure at the top of the League table, and they look like being champions. And when we look into the games and reckon up the "silly points," to use a colloquialism, that have been dropped during the last ten weeks, and know that we should have been at the head of affairs if the team had maintained its form, it is all very galling. And the more so because in each of the last three seasons there have been times when there appeared to be excellent prospects of promotion. Then they have all gone plunk.

From the first month of the season I have never thought that Swansea would finish at the top, and if our team, poor as have been recent displays, could find their

PRE-CHRISTMAS FORM.

I believe that we should go above them, for they are clever without the virtue of solidity. I thought that Brighton, Portsmouth and Northampton would be the first three, if not in that order, with Plymouth and the Town as the "dark horses." Millwall, however, suddenly decided to make an offer for a new forward line from Scotland, and forthwith their men showed that they could do things, and they have never looked back since then.

They have won eleven, drawn one, and lost one of their last thirteen matches, and that is the way to promotion.

But the disappointment from the Lutonians' aspect is that the club had a splendid chance until the last four games, and had they taken, as they deserved on the run of the game, the full complement of points, they would now have been at the head of the League, for their goal average would have been better than Millwall's.

In their latest failure they had enough of the game to have won handsomely, but the

INEFFICIENT FORWARD PLAY

was the drawback, and so Merthyr Town take away a point. For much the greater part of the game the Welshmen were struggling to keep out the Luton attacks, and it was this stubbornness of defence

that carried them through. In the main, yes, but one cannot overlook the fact that the comparatively few occasions on which their forwards got going they showed more enterprise and ability to seize chances than did the Town vanguard. Immediately Anderson made a bad kick in the first half, ARBLASTER was on the ball in a trice, and had beaten Gibbon all ends up with a goal that

COMPELLED A CHEER

from the most rabid of the home crowd.

The equaliser came in the second half, when Butcher got his first goal of the season with the first eleven, for he took advantage of a chance at close quarters after Foster had placed a free kick well, and Lindon was helpless. The Town repeatedly rushed the visiting defence, but it was chiefly solo work, and there was no swinging the ball about, and so they did not get past Lindon again.

There was little fault to be found with the Town defence, for all played well, and the middle men, while not so virile, nevertheless, did well enough to keep the Town attacking for long spells, and the forwards should have won the game. Till, Roe and Hoar were the outstanding players, with Anderson, Walker, and Hoten about the next in order. Hoar was very closely shadowed by Thomas, and the reason for the Town's ineffectiveness forward was due to the fact that the Merthyr halves and backs adopted the old style of defence—the halves keeping a tight hold on the centre-forward and wingers, and leaving the two inside men to the backs.

For the visitors, Smith, Ferrans, all the halves, with E. Turner and Arblaster, were the best.

LUTON TOWN 1

MERTHYR TOWN 1

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

MERTHYR.—Lindon; Smith, Ferrans; Callaghan, Sewell, Thomas; Thorne, Turner (H.), Turner (E.), Arblaster, Morgan.