

# LUTON LOSE AGAIN AT HOME.

## CHARLTON SCORE THE ONLY GOAL OF THE GAME.

### WHY NOT THE OLD TEAM?

At Luton.

CHARLTON ATHLETIC ..... 1  
LUTON TOWN ..... 0

LUTON TOWN. — Gibbon; Graham, Till; Jennings, Walker, Roe; Hoar, Kerr, Reid, Butcher, Danskin.

CHARLTON. — Wood; Smith (N.), Herod; Rees, G. H. Arncliffe, Goodman; Richards, Steele, Thomson, Ayres, Smith (S.).

Referee: Mr W. E. Greenland, London.

Saturday's was the thirteenth game played this year, and only in two of the last seven games have the Town scored. The three goals in those games have been credited to a half-back, a penalty kick, and the other to George Butcher—his one "cwe lamb" of the season. (He deserves more). The onus of avoiding defeat now seems to be on the defence, and, admitting that the backs made a present of the goal that

#### LOST THE MATCH

on Saturday, it is not a bad record to have lost only seven goals in 12 League games. Neither is one justified in blaming the middle men, for while that line did not scintillate on Saturday; was, indeed, much below its average standard; the main cause was with the inside forwards—yes, again.

One does not wish to harass the directors in any way, but as the weeks go by and the play of the forwards goes from bad to worse, the conviction is strengthened in my mind that Jennings assumes the pivotal position and the leadership of the team, there will not be any improvement. Until he was injured on Christmas Day, we had a run of success that

#### RAISED GREAT HOPES

of promotion, and whether we think he is a clever fellow or not, the main argument cannot be gainsaid; while he was all serene and in charge we played 13 games and garnered 23 points out of a possible 26. If he is fit to play — he wasn't fit in January — he should have back his job. If he isn't fit, then he should not be in the team at all. If for no other than sentimental reasons, the middle line should now be Walker, Jennings and Roe. Few people know that on Saturday he played for an hour with a badly dislocated mouth. Anyway it was so bad that he had a stitch put in his lip at the interval. He got a jab in the mouth and one of his teeth went

#### CLEAN THROUGH HIS LIP

—an accident exactly similar to that he

(By "CRUSADER").

sustained at Charlton last season. Roe also got such a rap on the ankle and knee that he is a doubtful starter for next Saturday. After seeing the Reserves and the first eleven on alternative Saturdays I believe that the middle line constructed as above would do much to restore the vitality of the front line.

But I would make another change: Roe should go forward as partner to Hosen, and Butcher to partner Hoar, with Kerr between them, that is, if Green is not fit. Anderson, Jennings and Walker would be as good a middle line as any. With the defence of Saturday I have no complaint, except that annoying tendency to dribble, and I believe it only needs a peremptory instruction to cut out that courtship of disaster.

That Charlton were exceedingly fortunate on the run of the play is beyond question. That was said of the matches with Plymouth and Merthyr, too, but it is

#### NONE THE LESS TRUE

for repetition. Match after match the team enjoys more of the ball, shows greater skill individually, and is engaged for the greater part of the time in the other team's half of the field, and yet—no goal. The failure oppresses the players also, and while every man is a trier, I think the influence of a good coach is essential to the best he got out of them. There is enough material if it were capable of blending, and that cannot be, it appears, until an instructor is enlisted.

One must make allowance for the effect of the wind in Saturday's game, but it was the same for both sides, and little fault could be found with the ground. Chances came the way of the Town before STEELE got the only goal that won the game, but while Charlton showed refreshing zeal whenever they got within range, Luton were

#### NEVER PROMPT

in shooting. That difference between the two attacks was one of the principal features, for while Wood had twice as many goal kicks as Gibbon, the latter had the more shots—real shots—to save. No punch in front of goal was the main deficiency, and as the chances were frittered so consistently it was no wonder that the crowd began to anticipate tea-time and to leave the ground long before the end.

Wood was fortunate on several occasions, but not too much in proportion

to the number of times the ball was in his goal area, and the danger never came from actual shots, but from the centres put in by Hoar and Hosen, or from the dropping of the ball into the goal-mouth by the halves and backs. As the game progressed the Charlton defenders

#### BECAME MORE CONFIDENT

and while in the first half often using unfair means, they were stronger in the second half, when they dropped unworthy tactics. And on their effective defence in the second half they were entitled to their two points.

Gibbon could not be blamed in any way for the goal. He did all that could be reasonably expected, for he was quite unprotected when Steele got the ball at close quarters, and none to hinder except the keeper. Gibbon touched the ball as it went past him, and subsequently he made many saves. Neither Graham nor Till were safe. Both were disposed to dally, and the former was not too content. Till would be a great back if he would only avoid that

#### HABIT OF DRIBBLING.

It is that alone detracts from his fine quality, for he is fast, true on his feet, clean, and of measured length in his kicking. The halves never reached par. Walker was good in defence, but did not feed well. Jennings was never settled on the flank, although he did useful work before his mishap. Roe was polished as usual, but apt to give the opposing winger too much rope. Of the forwards it was early evident that Kerr is a centre-forward, and personally, I prefer to see him in the lead. Reid did as well as could be expected, perhaps, because he did not get a lot of help, but he seems to have lost a lot of his dash. Butcher was the best of the inside men, and foraged and dribbled well, although he

#### MISSED OPPORTUNITIES.

Hoar had little to do other than what he received from the halves, but he did that little well except for a tendency to be over-strong in centring. Hosen was forceful, but he, too, lacked support.

Of the visitors, Wood, the backs, Arncliffe, the amateur, Thomson, Steele, and S. Smith were the best, but all worked well together, and from that aspect they contrasted favourably with the Town.

Mr. Greenland should have been more strict, especially in the first half.

The weather was fine, but breezy, and the gate was the smallest at a first team game this season—5,000.