

DOWN AGAIN!

LUTON TOWN DEFEATED AT HOME.

(By "CRUSADER").

Barely 5,000 people assembled on the Town ground to see Charlton Athletic get their first brace of points won away from home since November 16th, their first success since February 16th, and their second win of this year. When they had done so, hundreds of spectators had left the ground and were vowing that it was their last visit. The football, as in the previous game at home, was good for half-an-hour, but afterwards was scrappy, and largely of an individual character, and this again was the cause of the Town's defeat. There was no cohesion, few attempts at combination, and although Charlton were by no means a clever side, there was one feature of their play that was in sharp contrast to that of Luton—they swung the ball about and gave each other chances. That made all the difference between success and defeat. If it were a question of individual skill, I do not know that many of the Charlton players could get a place in the Luton side, but as a team playing with and for each other, they were a long way ahead of the Town.

Only one goal was scored, and that was by STEELE. In that instance the Town defenders were at fault, for first Graham failed to clear, and when Till appeared to have a chance of retrieving his colleague's error, he fell at the wrong moment, and Richards tapped the ball to Steele, who had an easy chance. It was not the only mistake in the Town's defence, but their blunders were not so serious as those made by the forwards. George Butcher we do not regard as a goal-scoring forward, and we know perfectly well that had he been a crack shot he would never have been seen in Luton's colours, but it is a fact that he went nearer getting goals than any other of the Town forwards, and actually had more shots at goal. Kerr did not settle down at inside right, and Reid was not the strong little force of last season. The former, provided he has the right men with him, would always be my first choice of centre-forward, and I think it was a mistake that Bob Thompson was ever allowed to go at the end of last season. I believe he would have made Kerr, or, for that matter, Reid. It must not be forgotten that young Reid did very well last season, but he has had no chance this, and the long waiting appears to have deprived him of some of his virility. He should get a further chance of recovery and be allowed to play his own game. Neither Kerr nor Reid was comfortable on Saturday, and Butcher was the choice of the three inside men, for however much he failed in front of goal, he did a lot of useful work initiating attack. Hoar and Hoten played well enough, although the former came in for some rough treatment from Goodman.

The half-backs were not nearly so good as usual, for the flanks were prone to give the visiting forwards too much rope, but both Jennings and Roe were injured before half-time. The former got a blow in the mouth, with the result that at half-time he had to have a stitch put in his lower lip, one of his teeth having been driven through it; the latter received an ankle injury, which makes him a doubtful starter for the match at Charlton. Walker found Thomson a dashing opponent, who required so much attention that the Town centre-half had little time to help his forwards. Graham and Till were somewhat shaky, and both dallied in clearing and lost the ball, but while at fault over the goal, the main portion of the blame could not rest with them. It was not in the forfeiture of chances by the defenders, but in the missing by the forwards. Gibbon again proved to be in good form, and made many good saves.

Of the visitors, Wood in goal, the backs, Armitage at half, and Thomson, Steele and Smith were the pick.

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

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

Referee: Mr W. E. Greenland, London.