

The Field of Sport

BRISTOL CITY BEATEN.

CAPTAIN INJURED IN MATCH AT LUTON.

TOWN'S GOAL AVERAGE REPAIRED.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 3
BRISTOL CITY 0

LUTON.—Brookes; Johnson, Graham; Mills, Walker, Millar; Hoar, Shanky, Kerr, Dennis, Brown.

BRISTOL.—Lawrence; Glenn, Hughes; Davis, Hawley, Torrance; Worlock, Paul, Smalles, Sutherland, Neate.

Referee.—Mr. W. E. Greenland, London.

Every sportsman in the crowd of 8,000 was sorry when the City lost their captain, Torrance, through injury, after twenty minutes' play. He would have had much more sympathy but for the penalty incident two minutes before, but those who know the pain of a knee injury of this character will not qualify their regret. If it turns out to be anything like as serious as is feared, then he is in for a long rest. Up to that point none could have been confident of the issue, though most of us must have been impressed by the fact that for style and intelligence the City were the better side, though that does not necessarily mean success. With Torrance absent, the team appeared gradually to go all to pieces, and at the close they were well beaten. For an hour the game was pleasant enough, but in the closing stages several City players lost their heads, and committed many bad fouls, not all of which came under official notice, and they forfeited much of the good feeling the crowd had in the City players.

Moreover, the general play suffered, and the second half was

A SCRAMBLING AFFAIR.

with the Town having very much more of the play, but the frequency of the offside play by the backs on both sides kept the forwards and halves in a pack in the vicinity of the middle line. What the Town lacked in the matter of scientific combination was counter-balanced by whole-hearted endeavour. They played with resolution, vigour, speed, and stamina, and they got no more than their deserts, and it is worthy of note that the goal average was

based on the right side. The turf was very soft, and foothold was none too easy, but this was not apparent in the early stages. Both teams went off at a spanking pace, and each goal was threatened in turn. The Town's had the narrowest escape when Hawley shot with terrific power and struck the upright. It was to the Town, however, that success came, and after several attacks had been beaten off Hoar was tripped in the penalty area by Torrance. It was a very fine thing to do for the City defenders were well situated, and there was no immediate prospect of a goal. There were some who did not think a foul had been committed, but the whistle went at the moment the linesman's flag was waved, and so both officials were right. It may not have been a very vicious offence, but from the Press-box the incident was quite plain. HOAR himself took the kick and had no difficulty in beating Lawrence, who was obviously confused by the leisurely manner

in which the Town player strolled up to kick the ball.

As soon as the game was resumed Torrance rushed to tackle Mills, and both went down, and the City captain sustained a severe strain of the knee. From the appearance of the leg and the pain the player suffered it seemed to me that his knee cartilage had slipped. He took no further part in the game. Sutherland fell to half-back, and that made a vast difference to the forward line, but he played well at half-back, and now and then made dashing raids in his own delightful style. Smalles missed his help forward, and Walker's task was lightened to an appreciable extent by the defection. The Town raided on left and right in turn, but the City's main source of danger was the burly Smalles, who often brushed Hawley aside, and for some clever fooling by Johnson and Graham the City leader

MIGHT HAVE SCORED

on several occasions. So at the interval the Town led by a goal to nil.

When the game was re-started the City adopted the one-back game, excusable under the circumstances, but unwise, as it turned out. The Town set up a warm attack at once, and Glenn dashed across and tripped Hoar near the corner flag. Hoar swung the ball across to his beautiful grandson, DENNIS, dived himself at the ball gallantly, and although he collided with an opponent, the ball went into the net for the second goal. Very rarely did the City get in an attack, and Graham and Johnson dealt with most of them in prompt and effective style. Eighteen minutes of the half had gone when Hughes, who had been getting wilder and wilder in his play, badly mis-kicked, and overbalanced. Shanky rushed forward, and with a clear course went straight for goal, two opponents in hopeless pursuit. As Lawrence advanced SHANKY slipped the ball past him into the net. The issue was quite safe then, although Smalles and Neate made great efforts, but Brookes had no difficult shot to deal with, and the end came with the Town easy winners.

For one City player in particular I felt great admiration and respect. He had no superior on the field. A big, muscular fellow, his

PLAY WAS MAGNIFICENT.

No man could have done more to rally his forces, and it was only his skill and diligence that saved the City from utter rout. He broke up every strong attack, extricated his backs from many ugly situations, and when most of his colleagues were getting very nervy and erratic his influence steadied them. Moreover he had splendid understanding with the men in front of him, feeding cleverly and following up over in readiness for a shot at goal. He is getting near the veteran stage, perhaps, but he showed us how useful a pivot really should be. Glenn and Hughes opened well, but were very uncertain later on, while Lawrence, although he could not be blamed for the goals, did not

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seem any too comfortable. Smalles was a magnificent leader, muscular, fearless, and enterprising, with cleverness in his feet, and he and Sutherland were easily the best of the forwards.

Brookes had only one or two hard shots to stop, and he was well covered by his backs. Johnson gets better, and Graham played a rousing game. It will not be because of weakness if either is displaced. Graham's play afforded

CONTRAST OF STYLE

In comparison with that of Johnson, but was equally effective. He timed his rushes excellently, kicked powerfully and cleanly, and had good understanding with Millar. Johnson was staid by comparison, but he was a schemer, his offside working being smart. His tackling was clean and sure, and the only fault was a tendency to "balloon."

At half-back, the Town had not a great advantage. Millar again played a wonderful game, and his success, as against Northampton, was due to the manner in which he hugged his wing opponent. It is that feature, combined with his understanding with Graham, that has made Millar so successful, and while he can "bottle up" fingers as small as Worlock there is not much danger of his deception. His tactics were a return to the old style of half-back play, and, in my opinion, the best style. He fed his wing men well, too. Mills gave Neate a lot of scope, but did an enormous amount of work, and, for his wing pretty well. Waterhouse of the best that was in him without reaching brilliance, and he was up against a centre-forward of almost ideal physical equipment and

SENSE OF LEADERSHIP.

He will meet few opponents more skilful than Smalles and Sutherland.

The forwards were improved by the inclusion of Hoar, and it was not long before the Town winger's play indicated that we may look forward to his best very shortly, as there was practically no fault to be found. Without coming to the dashing pitch, he showed fine speed and control, and but for the effect of offside tactics, which he circumvented better than any other forward, would have been even more successful. On the other extreme, Brown did not look like a goal-scorer. Without coming to the dashing pitch, he showed good speed and judgment in centring, although he might have taken his courage in his hands and shot for goal after creating openings. Shanky gave an improved general display, and again proved his opportunities with a cool, well-placed shot, and he continues to do things like that but will maintain his position. Dennis was again a live factor, and his virile work had much to do with the instability of the City defence. Again he headed a fine goal, and again lent power to a shot to the latter end of the goal, in this respect he perhaps would have done better to keep farther forward. Kerr received from Hawley a very close attention always, and while he harassed the backs by several strong forays, had no luck with his shots.