

Luton Town's Progress

BRISTOL CITY WELL BEATEN.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN

BRISTOL CITY

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

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

Referee: Mr. W. E. Greenland, London.

In view of the fact that the Town have played six games at home and only three away, it cannot be said that their position on the League table is satisfactory. They should have been at the top of the League. That is their misfortune rather than their fault, for shuffling and re-shuffling of the team, necessary or otherwise, is not conducive to consistency. It was felt by the majority of the supporters that they were fortunate on Saturday to just the same extent as Bristol City were unfortunate. There could be little doubt that the City were the more polished side until Torrance, their captain, got hurt twenty minutes from the start, and the way their three inside men went through was delightful. The Town backs, however, were playing with sturdy confidence, and the forwards began to take heart, and there were fast and thrilling raids from end to end. In one of these Torrance thought well to sweep Hoar's legs from under him in the penalty area, although there was no very serious danger, and a penalty was promptly awarded. HOAR took the kick and scored easily. Torrance then met with an injury that is likely to last for a long time, and he had to be carried off. In a desperate tackle against Mills his knee was hurt. With Sutherland drawn to the middle line, the City forwards lost much of their effectiveness, but the City defenders gave nothing away, and they were still only one goal behind when the "refresher" was signalled.

Had the City not changed their tactics on restarting, they might have done much better, but Glenn went into Torrance's place and Sutherland forward, and the one-back game was as much a trouble to the City as to the Town, for the home backs played the same game with greater success, and when play did move from midfield it was nearly always towards the City goal. The City were beaten by their own impulsiveness as soon as the game was resumed, for Hoar was wrestled down, and he took the free kick himself, dropping the ball just within range of DENNIS, who flung himself at it to head a fine goal. He got injured for his temerity, but was soon in the struggle again. The third goal came twenty minutes after the interval. Hughes was at fault. He failed in an attempt to volley, and SHANKLY dashed past him to carry the ball right through and beat Lawrence at close quarters. That concluded the scoring, but the Town had much the better of the game, and only lack of finishing ability prevented them increasing their lead. Before the finish some of the City players were guilty of tricks that were inexcusable, and made the crowd angry. Worlock especially resented the liveliness of Millar, and there were many trips. Moreover, Hughes came under the official ban for his attitude towards the referee, and he was fortunate not to be sent off the field.

The Town won by their enthusiasm and persistency forward. Most welcome was the return to form of Sid Hoar, although he experienced a good deal of robust treatment. He has not yet reached the best of which he is capable, but he was classy, and when he is quite sure of that bad ankle, we may look for splendid things from him. Shankly was better than on Monday, and made some very neat moves. On the other flank, Brown and Dennis again got on well. Brown showed a rare turn of speed, and only once failed to get the ball across, but he should have scored on two occasions had he evinced a little less unselfishness. Dennis was as good as on Monday. He put in a wonderful lot of work, controlled well, and was always on the premises when there was trouble in the City goal area. Kerr tried very hard, but his thrilling solo raids were unsuccessful. In the middle line Mills was the best "nurse" for the forwards, and his roving commission enabled him to do much attacking. Millar played a magnificent game again, and almost paralysed the City right wing, while he fed Dennis and Brown very nicely with ground passes. Walker could not master Smailes, but will not often meet a leader of such ability and pushfulness. Johnson and Graham were a very fine pair of backs, and the more they play together the better they are. Brookes also kept goal well in the first half, but had little occupation in the second.

For the City, the defence was shaky, but Hawley played grandly all through. All the inside forwards did good work, and Neate, a mere boy, showed promise, but Worlock could make little progress.

There were 8,000 spectators.