

ONE POINT ONLY.

LUTON TOWN SHARE GAME WITH ABERDARE.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Luton Town are now seven points down on comparison with results in the same games as last season, and the goal average is very much worse, for last season 15 goals were scored against 10, and this season only 12 have been scored against 17. Then there have been 20 players called upon already, and more might have been pressed into the service had they been available, for only Orr and Davies have not yet figured in the team, and the former has been on the injured list for three weeks, while Davies has not been fixed up definitely a month.

What is the reason for the difference in the position in the League? Where does the fault lie? According to one's whims or predilections, the blame is imposed upon one or other department, upon the management by the directorate, and upon the training methods. Every supporter has his particular ideas as to the best combination, and thinks all others

MORE OR LESS ABSURD.

Of all the parties to the failure, I think the directors are most blamed, and yet have the best answer to the charge. "Why don't you play this or that man?" they may be asked. And the answer is, "Tried him." And the trainer may be challenged, and his answer would be, "I get them fit, and you cannot find any team that, as a whole, finishes more strongly than the Town." This leaves only the players, and the onus must rest upon them. Few of them have played up to their reputations—old and new players alike. Some of them have suffered the misfortune of injury, and others have suffered loss of form. All, I am sure, have done their best, and any suggestion to the contrary is unjust.

The comparative failure is due, I think, mainly to two things in about equal proportion: The falling off in middle line strength, and the lack of thrustfulness and efficient marksmanship forward. The one, of course, acts adversely upon the other. What is the remedy? Short of getting new players, which is impossible with the exchequer in its present state, there appears to be two ways in which improvement might be effected. Saturday's game showed conclusively that all the first need—not the only one—was in

FINISHING POWER.

The combination was open to considerable improvement, it is true, but so much of the game did the Town have that they must have won comfortably had they shot with even average ability and persistency. They were so much better that they had the play in the Aberdare territory for extended periods, and in the second half it was annoying to see how well-organised attacks frittered away to nothing. Centres came over from the wings, corner kicks were forced and placed well, but always the visitors managed to stave off the trouble simply because they were a shade more lively or judicious, and Howells was not tested very severely at any time. All the Town halves took a hand in attacking, and Graham also came through now and then, and endeavoured to create chances, but all to no purpose. In the second half we all thought the game was won when a penalty kick was given against Sheldon for handling, but Sid Hoar failed to get the ball past Howells, who took a direct shot with ease and cleared. So people began to leave the field very soon afterwards, since it

DID NOT APPEAR LIKELY

that the Town would score, especially as the Welshmen were then content to keep a grip on one point.

Aberdare's best work, as a team, came in the first half, when they showed commendable enterprise, and more than once had the Town defenders guessing. Once Metcalf drove in a grand shot, but Brookes brought off a remarkable save at full length that evoked as much applause as if a goal had been scored by the Town. In the second half, too, from one of their infrequent dashes, Brookes was beaten by a shot, but Johnson managed to kick the ball off the line.

The best part of their team, however, was the rearguard, where the backs played very cool, resourceful football, and they never failed in kicking, while in tackling they were often successful, and backs and halves alike showed prowess of recovery that served them in good stead time after time. Worrall was the more prominent back, and Harwood the best half. In the forward line there was not much combination, because the wings did not respond to the cleverness of the inside men, who swung the ball out nicely.

The Town defenders were very safe, too. Brookes had not very much to do. Graham played a very fine game at back, and Johnson maintained his level. Both kicked and tackled remarkably well, but Graham did

THE LION'S SHARE.

because he went after it. The middle line was an improvement, though it might have been very much better had Jennings been at his best. Over his return had centred the usual controversy, and one section of the crowd shut their eyes to everything useful he did, while magnifying every fault. He was not so virile in spoiling as usual, but in other phases he was useful. The clique who first made Ernest Simms think about leaving Luton, have done the same for Jennings and Hoten, and would do it for a Buchan and a Bloomer. Roe was the most polished of the halves, if not of the twenty-two, and made for greater efficiency in the attack, as well as tightening the defence. In saying that, however, and much as I like Roe, it should be pointed out that Bob Millar played at Swindon and at Reading under the handicap of a severe cold, and on his form in the two games before then, is still entitled to consideration, but Roe's brains anywhere in the middle or front line. Mills maintained his consistent form, and his ability is unquestioned. He, too, showed such control that might make for

USEFULNESS ELSEWHERE.

The new constitution forward was not a success. In the mid-field work there was much that was good, and some nice passing was seen at times, but it was in the completion of the work that there was lack of vim, promptitude and accuracy. Had the inside men shot as well as they passed, they would have put the goal average on the right side, but they failed lamentably in that, the most important department. Cockle now and then showed promise beyond the ordinary, but he was well watched. Hoten has not recovered his form, and Shankly, while co-operating nicely with Hoar, was slow in delivering the shot. Hoar played pretty well, and Dennis, in spite of an injury early on, again won favour, and both put across good centres.

Generally the game was clean and not uninteresting, and Mr. Pinckston controlled pretty well, but he was often out of touch with the actual play owing to his slowness or deliberation. The crowd numbered just over 6,000.

LUTON TOWN	0
ABERDARE	0

LUTON TOWN. -- Brookes; Johnson, Graham; Mills, Jennings, Roe; Hoar, Shankly, Cockle, Hoten, Dennis.
 ABERDARE.—Howells; Brooke, Worrall; Brophy, Harwood, Sheldon; Young, Barrett, Metcalf, Lister, James.
 Referee, Mr. E. Pinckston, Birmingham.