

ANOTHER POINT AWAY.

Luton Town's Game Struggle at Merthyr.

WEAK FINISHING.

(By "CAM BRIAN.")

MERTHYR TOWN NIL
LUTON TOWN NIL

MERTHYR.—Lindon; Phillips, Ferrans; Smith, Southway, Nash; Watts, Turner (H.); Roberts, Arblaster, Sillito.

LUTON.—Brookes; Anderson, Graham; Mills, Jennings, Millar; Hoar, Butcher, Reid, Dennis, Brown.

Referee.—Captain A. Prince Cox (Barnes).

Luton Town should have had both points from Merthyr on Saturday. It was only the weak finishing of their inside forwards that enabled Merthyr to share the booty, for the visitors, after a moderate start, gradually asserted superiority and wore down the resistance in unexpected fashion, so that they had the bulk of the attack.

In the opening stages the Luton left wing made the pace, thanks to the manner in which Jennings, the old Merthyr captain, plied them. They were soon beaten back, however, and the "Martyrs" made strong attacks, the Luton backs being somewhat uncertain in tackling and flurried in kicking. Brookes had great difficulty in saving shots from Turner and Roberts, the outcome of clever work by Sillito. Luton were not slow to reply, and Brown made a good attempt, but Lindon was quite safe, and the "Martyrs" were soon at the Luton end, Sillito being

THE PRINCIPAL RAIDER, and Arblaster again brought out the sterling qualities of Brookes. Later Watts spoilt good play by sending over.

Little had so far been seen of the Luton right wing, but Butcher gave Hoar a helpful pass, and the winger sent right over to the left wing for Brown to try his luck, but Smith got in the way and the ball went behind. Good work by Nash elicited applause, and then Reid made a strong sally and seemed bound to score, but the attacker's marksmanship was at fault. The Luton goal luckily escaped when Sillito sent across a flag-kick, but Millar fell back and cleared.

Luton played up strongly, and Brown was very prominent, and the home defence once presented an almost tragic spectacle when the visiting forward line completely beat the defence. Again Brown was well placed, but Smith was a persistent obstacle and got the ball away. Reid made a dashing effort, and went right through to collide with Lindon, and the ball went

HARMLESSLY BEHIND.

This was the nearest escape so far. Reid had to retire for repairs, but soon resumed, and Luton then had rather the better of the game to the change of ends, at which there was no score.

Merthyr suffered a severe shock almost immediately after the restart. A fine raid, which

originated on the Luton left wing, saw Reid crash through the Merthyr defence, but within a yard of the goal-line Lindon threw himself at the opposing leader's feet and effected a temporary clearance. The ball went to Butcher, and he had a grand chance, but ballooned the ball high over the bar. After Lindon had cleared his lines from Dennis, Brown passed inside and Reid managed to bustle the ball into the net, but the point was disallowed for offside. Eventually Merthyr got back on the attack, and Sillito made a plucky attempt at goal, but failed to put the right angle to his shot. Play was very keen and fast, and there was

ONE THRILLING INTERLUDE

around the Merthyr goal, when any of the three Luton inside forwards might have kicked through, but Phillips ultimately cleared. At this period Luton were playing with great speed and dash, and the "Martyrs" were often in difficulties. Dennis made another fine effort, and Southway was very lucky to get the ball away at the expense of a corner.

It was Arblaster who eventually brought relief, a magnificent dribble taking him well inside the penalty area, but he shot over. Sillito was hurt, but was not away long, and first Anderson and then Graham got rid of danger, while Mills

WON APPLAUSE

by neatly dispossessing Arblaster. Luton once more swarmed to the attack. Jennings and Millar forcing play on the left wing, and it was only the poor finishing of the inside forwards that enabled Lindon to retain a clean sheet. Hoar and Butcher made several clever raids, and the Luton wingers invariably dropped the ball nicely in front of goal, but Ferrans and Southway were very watchful, and the end came without a goal.

The 5,000 spectators enjoyed one of the best games seen at Merthyr for a long time. Luton showed better balance, and but for the hesitation in front of goal would have scored a convincing victory. Brookes kept goal grandly in the first half, but had not much to do in the second. Anderson and Graham were somewhat shaky for a long time, but little fault could be found with them after the change of ends, although Sillito gave the former a lot of trouble. Jennings, as usual, put up a remarkable game against his old team, and after he had settled down to Roberts' game the home leader had little chance. Mills was a clever intervener, and Millar was altogether the master of Watts. The visiting forwards showed nice combination, but weak shooting. The left wing was the more progressive, but the right did many clever things. Young Reid kept his wings together nicely, but was not in shooting form.

For the home team Lindon, Phillips, Southway, Arblaster, and Sillito were the pick.