

OUT OF THE CUP.

LUTON LOSE AT WEST BROMWICH.

Plucky but Unavailing Effort.

(By "CRUSADER.")

WEST BROMWICH ALBION 4 goals
LUTON TOWN Nil

WEST BROMWICH. — Ashmore; Smith, Perry; Magee, Reed, Richardson; Glidden, Carter, James, Wilson, Byers.

LUTON. — Brookes; Anderson, Graham; Mills, Neal, Millar; Mackey, Butcher, Tricker, Reid, Dennis.

Referee: Mr. A. H. Kingscott, Long Eaton.

Well, the Town got the "jacketing" that was predicted for them, and it should be admitted at once that they were fortunate to get off so easily. They put up a sturdy show against a side that plays football as nearly alike the first-class football of twenty years ago as could be imagined. There was never any question of the Albion's superiority, and the game was not two minutes old before we had proof of it. Carter, who must be the finest inside-right of the day, made a fine opening for his partner, and Glidden slung the ball across to WILSON, who deftly beat Brookes. "Slung" is the only word that can describe the centres of Glidden. Time and again he got the ball squarely in front of goal from a most acute angle, and only the daring and stubborn defensive work of Anderson and Graham kept the home inside forwards from registering many goals before the interval. The Town forwards were some time before they got into their stride, but they made good headway without being spectacular, and with any sort of forcefulness in front of goal might have scored on three or four occasions. All the inside men were tardy in getting in their shots, however, or Ashmore must have been beaten by Butcher and Reid. It was very close to the interval before the Albion got through again, Carter once more getting Glidden away to centre, for JAMES to score with a first-time shot.

Immediately the game was resumed, James, who appeared to be offside, gave Byers a pass, and the latter went through to return the ball for JAMES to score the third goal. The Town continued to make raids, but they were never permitted to give Ashmore much anxiety, and midway through the second half Carter took advantage of a slip by the Town halves, and after some manoeuvring he gave JAMES an easy chance to register the fourth goal. The Albion forwards obviously slackened, and the Town forwards did quite a lot of attacking, but they could do nothing better than threaten danger, and the best shot at Ashmore's charge came from Mills, who skimmed the bar with a fine drive from twenty yards' range.

The Albion's position in first-class football is deserved. Clean, fast, clever football, all the time making the shortest route to goal, the inside forwards feeding the wingers, and the latter returning the ball for the inside men to do the shooting. That was generally the order. The ground was fast at the start, but soon kicked up and became treacherous, but the Albion did not appear to be troubled with the conditions at all. The rearguard did not show any great skill, perhaps because the halves reduced their task, but these middle men spoiled neatly and constructed attacks with remarkable intelligence. Magee, the smallest player on the field, was exceptionally fine, but Dennis and Reid gave him a great deal of trouble, especially in the latter stages.

Brookes kept goal magnificently for the Town. He saved half-a-dozen shots that seemed bound to score, and the crowd gave him a splendid ovation at the interval. Anderson played attractive football, and this right flank in defence was the better, for Mills' experience was a valuable asset. These two were the pick of the defensive elements. Graham played as pluckily as ever, but he and Millar had the stiffest task of their playing careers. They stood up to their medicine, however, and never gave in. Neal, in spite of a severe blow from the ball, which opened the wound over his left eye, played valiantly all through. The halves found little time to assist the forwards, and the latter suffered in consequence. Butcher tried to open out the game, and succeeded at times, but too often he and Tricker were too close together. Mackey got over a few good centres, but the best work came from Dennis. Reid looking well after the winger. Tricker again showed promise, but is not yet ripe enough to challenge teams like the Albion. He will be with training and experience.

The crowd paying for admission numbered 30,287, and the receipts were £1,772 10s. From this sum must be deducted entertainments tax and expenses, and so the Town will not receive so much as from The Arsenal the last year.