

BEATEN FOR DASH.

How Luton Lost at Shepherd's Bush

ROBUST RANGERS.

(By "CRUSADER.")

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 2 Goals
LUTON TOWN 1 "

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.—Field; Pierce, Evans; Thompson, Sweetman, Pigg; Brown, Birch, Hurst, Johnson, Ford.

LUTON TOWN.—Brookes; Anderson, Till; Walker, Jennings, Millar; Thirlaway, Shankly, Kerr, Reid, Dennis.

Referee: Mr. W. Musther, London.

Luton Town lost on Saturday because they were not as "ferce" as the Rangers. Sheer dash and recklessness won the match. It was a game in which clever football was seldom seen, because if any player attempted it, he was soon "taught better." Just what the struggle would have been if the referee had suited some of the "Bushmen," I do not know, because they were yelling at him every time he pulled up the Rangers for foul play. They demonstrated against him at the interval and at the finish, and some of them were so disappointed at a game that was not quite bloodless, that they made up for it in a carriage of the Metropolitan Railway, for they began a fight among themselves. Apart from the tactics of the Rangers, one of the most robust teams I have seen this season, a gusty wind, a hard ground and a light ball, did not conduce to a classic exhibition. The Town were knocked off their game; they were never allowed to play settled football, and in the first minute Till had an opponent's knee on his thigh so forcibly that his speed was considerably reduced. Mr. Musther was not a bad referee at all, and while the Rangers were

PENALISED FREQUENTLY.

he missed many offences. Dennis was wounded just above the knee early in the game, and the second half was young when he received a blow that left a mark on his left eye. Anderson, Thirlaway and Kerr also caught knocks.

When all these things are said, however, it must be admitted that the Rangers were value for their success. It was the dash of Hurst that was largely responsible, for whenever the ball was in the vicinity of the Luton goal, he was barging somebody, and thrice he toppled headlong into the net in an attempt to charge Brookes. It was not attractive football, but it paid after four minutes' play, hence the ex-Guardman kept it up in the hope of getting more goals. The Town made a promising start, but the Rangers' first raid was only temporarily repelled, and Johnson sent over a very high centre. Till framed to head the ball, but HURST rushed up and jumped almost on to Till's shoulders, and had the satisfaction of heading in. Brookes touching but failing in a gallant effort to arrest the ball.

The Town held their own for a long time, but the Rangers were

QUITE UN CEREMONIOUS.

They kicked and tackled and charged and rushed so fiercely that the Town were thrown out of gear. There were one or two thrilling moments in Field's area, but more in that of Brookes. The second goal was rank misfortune for Brookes. There was a simple lob into the goal mouth, and he had the ball covered, but it struck a nur and rose right over his head. By a tremendous effort, he managed to recover and punch the ball, but there was not enough power to propel it against the wind, and it "hung," with the result that HURST was on the premises in a trice, and headed through. Some were disposed to blame the Town goalkeeper, but to me it appeared quite clear that he was the victim of a freak, and our photographer, who was close

to the spot, confirmed that view long after I had wired the facts to the "Saturday Telegraph." The breeze was gusty as well as fairly strong, and so it was not a hopeless outlook for the Town when the interval was called with the score:—

RANGERS 2 Goals
LUTON Nil

We had a tonic as soon as the game was resumed. The Rangers were driven into their own quarters, and only four minutes had passed when a goal was credited to Reid. It was the outcome of an infringement, when Jennings was fouled by Pigg or Sweetman. Walker took the kick and lifted the ball well into the mouth of goal. Kerr headed it to the left, and by a big effort Dennis managed to save the ball from going out, and lifted it past Field, who had rushed out. REID, without waiting to stop the ball, gently hooked it round and into the net. We hoped for even better things after that, but they did not come, and the Rangers went into the fray with even more vim and dash than in the first half, and once more the Town had to take second place, and Brookes had far more work to do than Field. Indeed, the Town forwards seldom called upon the Rangers' goalkeeper, often though the ball was in the Rangers' half, and only in the last seven or eight minutes was the home goal in any grave danger. Millar gave Field his hardest job, when he fired in.

A GREAT SHOT

from a free kick, and the goalkeeper saved near the post.

The run of the game will be gathered from the foregoing. The Rangers gave the ball plenty of boot and followed up at great speed and no shirking. Hurst and Johnson were always on top of the Town backs, and superior stature gave them an advantage, but the intelligence department of the Rangers' attack was Birch, who is as good as ever. Thompson and Pierce were the pick of the other departments, although both deserved reprimand for improper tactics.

For the Town, Brookes was again an unfortunate, and although Anderson showed all his cleverness in ball play, he was overpowered when it came to a rough-and-tumble. So was Till, whose play was affected by the early mishap, in which his thigh muscles were bruised. Jennings' physique was a great asset in many of the scrimmages, but he was floored twice. He played as hard as ever. Walker did quite well when his wing played football against him, and better than in any previous game with the first eleven this season.

THE PICK

of the line, however, was Millar, because he had a clever wing to face, and I have not seen him play better in all his association with the Town. He was very good indeed.

The forwards were triers, certainly, but after the heavy grounds they seemed at a loss to get going with any cohesion on the fast pavement-like pitch. Individually they often did good work, but there was need for better combination. Kerr was not well supported, but gave some nice passes at times, although having few opportunities to shoot. Reid was the most thrustful and readiest to shoot. Shankly was persistent, and showed good footwork, but did not shoot quickly enough. Both Thirlaway and Dennis were shadowed very relentlessly, and the former knew it only too well.

There were only 4,000 spectators at the start, but nearly double that number had paid before the interval.