

THE LEAGUE-DIV. III

KICK-AND-RUSH GAME,

Beats Luton Town at Shepherd's Bush.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Queen's Park Rangers had such good fortune as was going in the match at Shepherd's Bush, but they had more of the play than Luton Town, and they deserved to win. It was not a thrilling game, and at times there was as much interest in the half-time scores board as there was in the game. As was the case at Luton the previous Saturday, the Town suffered from the robust methods of their opponents, and there must have been three or four free kicks against the home team for every similar penalty given against Luton. None cares to see rough play, and I am bound to say that the Town are playing as cleanly as any team in the country. It has been a lean season, but I hope they will maintain the present standard, for, sooner or later, referees will recognise it, and I believe that Mr. Musther did so on Saturday. At any rate, he had a very lively time, the crowd demonstrating against him much worse than the Luton crowd disapproved of the referee in the Charlton game. The difference between the two demonstrations was that the Luton crowd clamoured for rough play to be put down, but the Shepherd's Bush people were angry because their favourites were penalised. Some referees might have disallowed the Rangers' first goal for that reason, as HURST, who headed through a centre from Johnson four minutes after the start, jumped in dangerous fashion when Till was heading the ball. It was the same player who headed the second goal after Brookes had been beaten by a ball that rose awkwardly from the ground when a long kick was sent in.

The Town's goal came from REID, who hooked in a pass from Dennis four minutes after the restart.

The Town did well in midfield, but when they got to close quarters they could not find the dash to overcome a defence that gave no quarter. It was very much the same in defence. The assaults of the Rangers were conducted with a fierceness that often found the Town backs overturned, and Brookes had to be very slick or he would have been knocked about a good deal. A Samsonian defence would have been necessary to check the Rangers effectively, and it was a good thing that Jennings concentrated on defence a lot, or matters might have been worse. If it had been purely a football match, Anderson and Till were quite good enough to hold their own, for they kicked and tackled well, but when the ball was in the air, as was too often the case, the Rangers were too big and strong. Brookes kept goal well, and I would never blame a goalkeeper for being beaten as he was by the second goal.

All the halves stood up well to a gruelling fight. Millar played a great game against a fine wing, and some of his touches were exceptionally clever. He defended resolutely, and he looked after his forwards much better. I have never seen him more subtle in possession. Jennings was in the thick of the fight, giving and taking impartially, without reaching the standard of the previous week. Walker did better than in any previous game for the first team this season.

The forwards were again lax in front of goal, and they never appeared to settle down. They tried to play the close game against opponents who preferred kick and rush, and would not give them any time to think. Thirlaway and Dennis got in a few good runs, and the inside men were always trying hard, especially Reid, but there was very little combination.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 2
LUTON TOWN 1

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

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

Referee: W. Musther.