

THE LEAGUE-DIV. III

LUTON'S SEVENTH WIN.

(By "CRUSADER").

By success over Reading at Luton last Saturday, Luton Town drew away from an uncomfortable position near the bottom of the League. They were at some disadvantage in the match, for the conditions suited the big, heavy Reading team, and it was well that the Town scored in the very early stages. REID was the scorer after a bright bit of play, probably the best of the match, in which Thirlaway, Shankly and Kerr each had a part before Reid actually headed the right-winger's centre past Duckworth.

Keen and industrious as were all the players, the game was often dull, and in each half there were spells when the most interesting incident was a throw-in. However, the Town showed the better knowledge of the finer phases of the game, and had they shot with average ability they would have won by a handsome margin. Reading made many strong attacks, but usually relied on individual thrusts, and with the Town backs giving Brookes plenty of room, and the half-backs recovering well, few close-range shots were delivered against the Town goal. There were several shots from long range, testing efforts, and two or three times the goal was in very real jeopardy from flag-kicks, but Brookes was not too hard-worked. Neither had Duckworth very much to do, and he was equal to hotter stuff than he received.

Two things in the Town's play require attention. There is need for better understanding between the Town backs and halves, especially on the right flank, and urgent need of improvement in pressing home attacks. These were blemishes most pronounced in what was a fairly attractive game.

Brooks and his backs were safe, and all the halves played splendid football. At times it was delightful to witness the cleverness of the home backs, but this pleasure was counterbalanced by the anxiety occasioned through the obvious lack of weight when the Reading forwards were most determined.

I gathered the general opinion that this division needs more weight. The halves again showed their best. Walker once more efficiently substituted Mills, and Jennings and Millar were at their best form. The forwards played well in all except shooting, and that is important enough. The combination was quite good, and Reid and Thirlaway were probably the best for the Town, but owed most of their prominence to the Town halves.

For Reading, Eggo, Messer, Braithwaite and Smith were the pick, Messer, in particular, playing a splendid game.

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

READING. — Duckworth; Eggo, McConnell; Wilson, Messer, Evans; Smith, Braithwaite, Ferguson, Davey, Springell.

Referee: Mr. H. E. Gray, Forest Gate.