

LUTON'S POINT FROM NEWPORT.

SPLENDID GAME DESERVES BETTER RESULT.

TILL'S GREAT DISPLAY.

(By "MONTY").

NEWPORT COUNTY 1
LUTON TOWN 1

NEWPORT.—Maidment; Dimmock, McKenzie (Fk.); Nairn, McKenzie (Fd.); Carney, Charlton, Forward, Taylor, Lowes, Cook.

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

Referee: Mr. E. E. Small, Bristol.

Newport were very much surprised by the display given by Luton Town at Somerton Park on Saturday. The fact that the "Ironsides" had once more their best team on view left little doubt in the minds of the supporters as to where the points would eventually rest. Once more, however, Luton surprised the "fans," and they did not get a whit more than they deserved. Indeed, many of us thought they were just a little unkindly treated by Fate that they did not take the full honours. Certainly on the run of the game they were the cleverer side, for while the County appeared to do a lot more dashing about, there was not the coolness and resource on the home side as that which marked the visitors, who played well to a man. In the first half, although facing the wind, they were much better in control, and kept the ball down better, with the result that they had the home defenders doing a lot of useless chasing of the ball.

WITHOUT GOOD RESULT.

There had been two good attempts by Luton to one by the "Ironsides" before first blood was drawn. That went to the credit of the visitors. After a swift raid on the visiting right wing, Thirlaway lobbed the ball over among a ruck of players, and SHANKLY leaped up and nodded the ball into the net where Maidment was not. The lead was thoroughly deserved, for there was more life about the visitors' attacks than about the Newport efforts. Gradually the home team improved, but the Luton defence, apart from two occasions when Graham miskicked, was very sound. Brookes made one glorious save at full length from Nairn, and then Luton attacked fiercely, and Maidment made three or four good saves in quick succession, one from Kerr being a certain goal-saver. The play continued even to the interval, the "Ironsides" being rather more aggressive, but Luton showing the better football.

LUTON TOWN 1 Goal
NEWPORT COUNTY Nil

The second half opened with the visitors compelled to defend strenuously for a time, but they soon got going again, and Kerr and Shankly several times burst through, while Dennis piled his partner with two nice openings, but the latter was slow to respond. Then a corner was forced, and Dennis placed well, Jennings having hard luck with a fine header that scraped the cross-bar. Newport rallied again, and Charlton swung across some fine centres, but always the home inside men fell victims to the wiles of Till, who played magnificently, and Brookes was seldom called upon. A fine movement by the visitors ended when Kerr drove in a lightning shot, and Maidment brought off a spectacular save by tipping over the bar. Shankly and Kerr again went close with strong efforts, and the home goal escaped miraculously on three occasions. Then there was a rush by the home forwards, and Carney, desperate by the non-success of his forwards, drove in a long shot, the ball being saved by Brookes. He could not get the ball very far away, and it was tapped forward to NAIRN, who had over-run his forwards. There was

A LOUD APPEAL

for offside by the visitors, but the referee refused to listen, and the goal was registered. Luton were very vexed, but they had to work hard subsequently to keep Newport out. They succeeded, and then came an anxious time for the "Ironsides." Maidment saved grandly from Thirlaway, who was doing very much as he liked, and Kerr and Reid shot very close. The interest of the 9,000 spectators was maintained to the end.

Luton's position on the League table is a mystery to us after their splendid display. Few better teams have been seen at Newport this season, and certainly there has been no better defence. Brookes had not a great deal to do, but in two saves he showed that he knew the way to keep goal. The outstanding player in the defence, however, was Till, who gave a brilliant display. His tackling was delightful, because it was clean, and the way he eluded the vigorous rushes of Forward and Taylor, and at the same time dispossessed them of the ball, was wonderful. His kicking, too, was of a more accurate

LENGTH AND STYLE

than that of any other back on view. Graham was a lusty partner, who did grand work after a rather shaky start. The Luton halves were as good a line as could be desired. Walker almost subdued Cook, in comparison with what the latter has been able to do against other opponents this season, and there was no more play on the flank. Jennings played with all the vigour and abandon and energy we know so well, and the home inside forwards were never allowed a moment's time to think when they got the ball, hence the few shots that were put in. Millar had a stiff task to hold the lively Charlton, but he did it well, and completed a line of great virility and resolution. The Luton forwards were weak in front of goal. They had many chances, but missed sometimes when it appeared to be impossible. Kerr was most unfortunate, for once he was tripped after a quick dash between the backs, and a penalty should have been awarded, for he looked all over a scorer. There was great relief from the crowd when the referee gave a free kick for offside to Newport,

for everybody expected a penalty kick. Thirlaway and Shankly were the better wing, their best work coming in the first half and both were fast and artful. Kerr led the line splendidly and his speedy raids had the home back on tenterhooks all the time. The left wing was not so good, for Reid seemed to be suffering lameness, and although he made several good attempts, he did not get the best out of Dennis. The latter did many fine things, and he was a constant source of trouble. For the home side the McKenzies played splendidly. Nairn, Charlton and Cook also did well.

FRIENDLY FRAY.

TOWN RESERVES BEAT ARSENAL RESERVES.

For a long time in the first half the friendly game between the Town Reserves and The Arsenal Reserves was a tedious affair. The fun came in the second half after the Town had scored a goal, and although they had to keep going at their best right to the end, they fully deserved their victory. The Arsenal sent down a pretty good side, the team including Dunn, who has many admirers in Luton, Currie, Clarke, who was secured last year at a big price from Bo'ness, and Hughes and Wells, who were transferred a little while ago from Guildford United, while Bert Lawson, son of Billy Lawson, was a welcome figure.

It was quite a good game on the whole, and there were about 3,000 spectators to enjoy it. All the goals came in the second half, after the Arsenal had rather the better of the first portion. A splendid goal scored by KEEN from a neat centre by Brown, paved the way to better things from them, and at the close there was no question about the merits of the success, for CASSELL got a very fine goal from Mackey's centre, and MACKEY himself notched the third point, following a trouble-bringing centre from Brown.

The Town Reserves had two new players on trial in Rogers, a goalkeeper from Langford, brother of the inside-left who has figured recently in the team, and

A NEW CENTRE-FORWARD

named George Cassell, from Maidstone. Rogers was not given a great deal of work, thanks to the fine play of Anderson and Neal, but showed coolness and resource on occasion, without suggesting extraordinary agility. Cassell was a long time before having much of the ball, but was alert and passed well, and, being young and well-made, may turn out trumps. His goal was splendid, and although a number of spectators thought he handled because he shot up his hand when he headed, Mr. Emery had no doubt whatever that the ball met the head fairly and squarely and the hand did not interfere. The referee was close up, and gave the goal without hesitation.

A great display was given by Anderson at back. He was right on top of Clarke from beginning to end. Positioning, tackling and kicking were superb, and his judgment in racing Clarke for possession was just so artful as to lead Clarke to imagine he had a chance, but invariably ended with the full back clearing without difficulty. Neal also played strongly, and as full of enthusiasm as ever. At half Roe put up

A MAGNIFICENT EXHIBITION.

and Bert Lawson, at any rate, fully appreciates the cleverness of Roe. For sheer artistry Anderson and Roe excelled. Mills played delightful football until crooked, and then was not disposed to worry a lot, as could be expected under the circumstances. Davies played very well, keeping a sharp watch on Clarke and Wells, the cleverest wing on view. Reference has been made to Cassell. Rogers was not so successful as in the game against Millwall, but Keen played as earnestly and well as ever. He fed Mackey nicely, and the latter was on his best behaviour. Brown had a bad time from the crowd, the penalty that usually befalls a player who takes notice of remarks from the terraces. He did much better in the second half when on the Stand side. Dunn could not be blamed, and Currie played well at back except when he took liberties. Adamson was a sturdy half-back, and the best work forward came from Wells and Hughes, the former showing clever initiative and footwork.

LUTON RESERVES 3

ARSENAL RESERVES 0

LUTON RES.—Rogers; Anderson, Neal; Davies, Mills, Roe; Mackey, Keen, Cassell, B. Rogers, Brown.

ARSENAL RES.—Dunn; Collins, Currie; Adamson, Seddon, Irving; Lawson, Davidson, Hughes, Wells, Clarke.

Referee.—Mr. W. J. Emery.

RESULTS IN BRIEF.

Bedford Albion 1, Luton Ramblers 6.

Knebworth 1, Kimpton nil.

WEDNESDAY FOOTBALL.

Luton Co-op's team to meet Cliftondale on Pope's Meadow to-morrow.—R. Thurley; J. Pratt, F. Phipps; T. Brown, B. Eames, J. Ballinger; W. Evans, F. Brightman, P. Lawson, E. Pakes, G. Perkins.