

BRIGHTEST AND BEST.

FOUR GOALS IN LUTON'S FINAL GAME.

REID'S HAT TRICK.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 4 goals
SOUTHEND UNITED Nil

LUTON TOWN. — Brookes; Graham, Till; Walker, Jennings, Millar; Thirlaway, Shankly, R. Tricker, Reid, Dennis.

SOUTHEND UNITED.—Hayes; Sayles, Donnelly; Jewhurst, O'Rawe, Edwards; Johnson, Dobson, Hick, Slater, McDonald.

Referee.—Mr. E. Butler, West Norwood.

Luton Town finished the season with a bang. They gave their brightest and best display, and had they played throughout the season as on Saturday, there would have been no promotion struggle now, for Luton would have won promotion. There were enough signs of talent on the Southend side to show that they have a side much better than last season, but the Town played like a team inspired, and with better finishing they would have made their goal average somewhere near even. In point of physique the teams were pretty evenly matched, but for quickness of movement and scheming the Town were far, far beyond the standard of the visitors. It was one of the few occasions this year on which the Town have played like a team.

The visitors resisted spiritedly in the first half, but after the second goal they were a well-beaten team. Hayes proved long before a goal was registered how capable a goalkeeper he is, and his cleverness prevented a big score. Many strong efforts had been beaten back before a goal was scored, but when it came it was worth the waiting, for it was just one of those

BRILLIANT SHOTS

that made Reid's reputation. To Shankly and Tricker belonged the credit for the initial movement, and it was a neat glancing stroke by Tricker's head that gave REID the chance to shoot first time from nearly fifteen yards' range, and although Hayes made a wonderful leap and touched the ball with his hands, the power behind the ball was too much for him, and it found the net.

There were many other splendid efforts, and Tricker and Shankly both came near scoring, and should have done so on several occasions. The funniest and worst error, however, was made by Reid. He and Tricker combined in a magnificent run, and Reid was left with the ball dead in front of goal, not more than three yards away, and plenty of time to shoot past Hayes. It appeared impossible to fail, but he tapped the ball straight into Hayes' hands. The interval found Luton good value for their lead.

LUTON TOWN 1
SOUTHEND UNITED 0

Only a minute of the second half had gone when the Town increased their lead. Thirlaway and Shankly did the donkey work, and by sheer pluck and perseverance the latter got the ball almost on the goal-line, and screwed in a wonderful shot from almost a right angle. Hayes just managed to knock the ball out, and REID, who had rushed up, promptly crashed it into the net. The Town monopolised the play, and forwards and half-backs were trying for goals, and once Till hit the post with a grand drive with Hayes beaten. All the forwards were persistent, and the Southend backs were overwhelmed. Hayes was not,

and he made several fine saves before he was again beaten. Following a clever effort by Dennis the ball was centred, and Reid again fired in a terrific shot that Hayes saved on his knees, but he could not hold the ball, and Tricker and SHANKLY rushed him, with the result that the latter put the ball into the net. Still maintaining the pressure, the Town forwards harassed the visiting backs continually, and Tricker dispossessed Donnelly in

A DETERMINED TACKLE.

and the ball went to REID, who eluded Sayles with a dainty executed movement, and shooting with fierceness and precision, he had Hayes hopelessly beaten.

Southend made a few belated efforts, and got into the danger zone mainly through the Town team's disposition to take liberties on the strength of their big lead. They never gave Brookes serious trouble, although Millar once robbed Hick and Dobson when they seemed to have the goal at their mercy, and Jewhurst drove a grand shot just wide.

The end came without further score.

Brookes had an even easier time than against Merthyr. He had one shot to stop in the first half, and in the second nothing that could be given that name, although he was allowed to run out and clear on two or three occasions when his backs cared to let him have the ball. Both backs played strongly, and with the exception of one bad miskick by Graham they were never at serious fault. Graham played with his customary dash and confidence, and Till once more had

"A DAY OUT."

his kicking and tackling being grand.

The halves were the backbone of the side again, and thoroughly mastered the opposition. There was nothing to choose among them. McDonald was a bit of a handful for Walker at times, but seldom slipped the leash; Jennings found the inside men tricky, but he gave Hick no time to think, and his fearless tackling put the other pair off their game. Millar once more had an enjoyable afternoon, because he made light of his task, and on two or three occasions he made smart dribbles that nearly brought goals.

All the forwards played well, their speed and combination being brighter than in any previous game. Thirlaway must have made the opposition regret that he ever left Southend, and Dennis was in sparkling form, being too fast and clever for Jewhurst and Sayles, and his centres were timely and well-placed. Reid gave of his best, and not only was his shooting successful, but his feeding of Dennis brought the latter into the limelight more than any other forward. Shankly was a thoughtful partner both to Thirlaway and Tricker, and the latter played quite well in midfield. His finishing was poor, but he only wants a month or two of continuous experience to make him a class centre-forward.

For the visitors Hayes played a grand game. His backs were weak, and the halves not much better, while the best of the forwards were Dobson and Slater.

There were 5,000 spectators; the match was worth more than double that number.