

FOOTBALL.

GOOD FINISHERS WANTED!

Great Need on Field as Well
as in Factory.

Why Luton Lost to the Rangers.

(By "CRUSADER.")

PERHAPS the above headline, borrowed from the advertisement columns, more aptly describes the greatest need of Luton Town Football Club at the moment, if one sets aside the inevitable shortage at the bank. There were times in the match at Shepherd's Bush on Saturday when the combination of the Town forwards gave real delight, for the ball went from man to man all along the ground at just such a tantalising distance from the opposition as to make an effort to intercept quite justified but abortive. Had the shooting been as accurate, the Town would have won with a comfortable margin in hand.

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There is a demand nowadays for lusty kicking, and swift raiding, with swinging passes from wing to wing. Those tactics have proved the most profitable so far under the new rule of offside, but the Town forwards proved on Saturday that progress can be made in the old way, and that the game need not lose in attraction by the new rule, if—wonderful word that—the forwards can be relied upon to shoot truly.

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Sympathy is a frail means of subsistence, and while the Town have suffered from what is popularly known as "hard lines" in each of their last three games, the fact remains that they have lost six points from them, and, in all, have collected only five of a possible fourteen points. The opposition cannot be said to be the strongest in the League, either, and the directors will soon have to close their ears to the plea of luck and set about discovering players who were not born on a Friday or were not under the influence of a minatory planet.

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It would be hard to say that any particular player was unworthy of his place from the standpoint of individual skill, but at the moment there are weaknesses that must be remedied without further delay. That is not my job, thank heaven, and the gentleman who, during the practice games, confided to his sweetheart that there would be a really good team if "Crusader" were not concerned in the management, should now put on his thinking cap and give us the solution. I have never been concerned in the management, but am concerned for it.

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The one goal that was scored at Shepherd's Bush was the reward of enterprise, and the scorer, JOHNSON, the Rangers' centre-forward, was held by the home supporters to have justified his inclusion by that one merit alone. Yet he could hardly have missed scoring, so easy was the task presented by Ford, to whom the main credit for the goal should go. The Town may not have had chances equally easy, but there were several that were equally well worked for, and might have been turned to account. Hebden had more work than Mingay, and the home team, while having slightly the better of the exchanges in the first half, were sorely tried in the second, and once more the Town showed better staying powers, and were going as well at the end as at the beginning.

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The control of the game left a good deal to be desired, and there was one occasion when a home defender deliberately handled in the penalty area; the referee put his whistle to his mouth, but refrained from blowing, and the game went on. It was a clear case, and should have met with the full punishment. Then there were two incidents when Hebden was well beaten, and was floundering with other players in the goal-mouth, with the ball lying close to the goal-line and none there to help it through. But allowing for the errors that were made, the Town should have won.

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Mingay kept goal well, and was assisted by two strong backs. Graham did not shape so well at right back as he has done at left back, but Till came in again and played a very fine game. It was unfortunate for the former that he should have to change positions, and I am not at all sure that it was absolutely necessary, for Till seems to kick with either foot as accurately as could be desired. On the other hand, Graham does not bear himself and his burden of work with the same confidence at right back as on the other flank.

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There was an improvement on the previous game in the half-back exhibition, but the left wing of the Rangers gave Walker a very rough time. Jennings found the heavy going more to his liking, and Millar also came back to his best form after the interval. Norman Thomson played very fine football at inside-left, and I should imagine that he will not soon be moved, and Shankly played as well as ever at inside-right. Thompson was strong but slow, and the wingers did not rise to the level of some of their other displays.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 1

LUTON TOWN 0

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS. — Hebden; Pierce, Plunkett; Hirst, Richmond, Pigg; Ford, Birch, Johnson, Middleton Spottiswood.

LUTON.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Waker, Jennings, Millar; Moffat; Shankly, Thompson, Thomson, Dennis.