

DASH v. SKILL

HOW LUTON TOWN'S CHANGES WORKED.

MORE GOALS — FOR BOTH SIDES.

(By Crusader).

LUTON TOWN 3

BRIGHTON ALBION 3

LUTON TOWN.—Purdy; Anderson, Till; Walker, Richards, Graham; Miller, Shankly, Littlewood, Millar, Thompson.

BRIGHTON.—Webb; Curran, Jenkins; Wilkinson, Hawley, Little; Nightingale, Jennings, G. Goord, Hopkins, Wilson.

Referee: S. A. Donaldson, London.

If nine changes are necessary to make a draw, how many will be required to ensure a win? That is the problem supporters of Luton Town were asking before and after the game on Saturday.

Let me say once again that the right of the directors to choose whom they will ask to play or to stand down has never been questioned in these columns, but, as responsible for a public entertainment, their plans and productions are open to criticism, and, if they want to maintain interest, criticism is desirable.

What they did last week invited criticism, for it is an event of some import when a club of the standing of the Town makes nine changes in eleven positions.

And what was the result? The play of the team justified criticism. From the standpoint of all-round skill, it was the worst exhibition they have given this season. It is true that three goals were scored—more than in all the previous eight games—but the jig-saw puzzle made of the defence gave three goals away, so

WHAT GAIN?

I am with the vast majority of the supporters in thinking that the only department calling for drastic improvement was the forward line. The Town were fortunate to draw, and I do not think they would have done so had Brighton not made the foolish error of withdrawing from attack when they were right on top. I have heard it said that the Town did not get together until half-an-hour had elapsed. They never did get together. There was not a single combined movement one could enthuse over. It was not the Town's cohesion, but Brighton's change of tactics that put the Town on level terms. If it is sufficient to draw at home and leave the away results to pan out as they may, then the team should not be subject to further alteration.

Having said so much, I want to pay

A TRIBUTE

to the whole of the players—without exception. In strange places they did their very utmost—almost to recklessness at times. They seemed to realise that they could not hope to become an effective combination, and so they set about making themselves as active as they possibly could. By whole-hearted effort they flustered the visiting defenders, and for this virtue alone they deserved to share the points. No player ever worked harder than he did in this game, though many have worked more successfully.

Brighton began well, and their indisputable superiority brought two magnificent goals before twenty minutes had passed. These were scored by GOORD and JENNINGS.

UNSTOPPABLE SHOTS

that went into the net at a great pace from a range of 15 to 18 yards. Practically all the time the visitors were threatening to score, and were only thwarted by the very fine play of Anderson and Till, especially the latter, whose dashing play frustrated attack after attack that was launched with keenness and skill. The Town forwards could not get going as a line, and the halves were almost powerless against deft passing and dribbling. I would say that it was Till who turned the tide as much as any player, for he inspired his colleagues to greater effort.

LITTLEWOOD had been very earnest, and when Curran failed to head the ball accurately, the centre-forward rushed through with the ball at his toes, and finally beat Webb with a fast ground shot that glanced in off the post. Webb afterwards said he thought the ball was going wide or he could have stopped it. I doubt it. He had

NOT MUCH CHANCE.

For Littlewood's sake the crowd showed their pleasure. The success gave the Town players greater heart, and Shankly and Miller broke through two or three times. Shortly before the interval Jenkins handled a centre from Miller, and the latter took the free kick, placed the ball just beyond the waiting defenders, and BOB MILLAR'S dash enabled him to head the equaliser.

Brighton resumed just as sprightly as they had opened the game, and the left wing was the over-dangerous part of the attack. It came as no surprise when HOPKINS, after a clever bit of trickery, put his side ahead with another fine shot. Once more the Town pulled out to

THE LAST OUNCE

of their strength and energy, and Thompson made Herculean efforts that were eventually successful. SHANKLY scored, but the initial work had been Thompson's, for he drove the ball across goal twice in admirable style, and it was from a scuffle that the inside right managed to rush the ball past the prostrate Webb.

As the game wore on the Town played with great determination, and in the last stages they should have won the match. They had the chances, and with Brighton's defence inclined to waver, a little more skill, combined with the enterprise, would have given the Town the victory.

Purdy had a great deal more to do than Webb, and on this showing he is quite good enough for the first team, or for any team. I heard some

suggestion that he might have saved the first and third goals, but I do not think he had any chance. He fields cleanly, and always

FOLLOWS THE PLAY

closely. Anderson came into his own again, and acquitted himself well under exacting circumstances. Till was simply great, and if ability were the decisive factor, none better deserved the honour of captaincy. At the present time I think he is the best back I have seen in Luton's colours. In saying that Jennings was missed from the middle line, I join the crowd. Richards differs in style from Jennings, and his best work was in attack. Some of his scheming and passing made one wonder what he would be like as a leader, for his control was excellent, and his passes seldom failed. But you cannot find many men to-day who are capable of doing a lot of service for their forwards and then getting back to the defence, and it was in the latter quality that Jennings was missed. Richards would be a great player if he were quick in recovery, and under any circumstances he has earned his place in the team wherever he is placed. Graham is not a half-back, and I do not think he ever will be. He is

NATURALLY A FULL BACK,

and while I gladly testify to his grit and dash. I prefer to see him in the rear. Walker had a very hard time of it, for he faced an exceedingly fast and clever wing.

The right wing was the better, and Shankly, while his shooting was not so good as usual, was a great little forward. Miller will do better when he has had a little more association with Shankly. He was hardly consistent on Saturday, but most of his work ended in danger for Webb. Littlewood had the satisfaction of scoring in his first League game, and I am sure he has much football in his boots. He will improve if he gets encouragement. He keeps well up and harasses the backs, and can shoot if he gets the right passes. Bob Millar scored a goal and also made the best individual run of the match, a dribble that deserved a goal, but I prefer to see him at half. Thompson was heaps better than when he appeared on the extreme left before, and he was

A ZEALOT

of the best type, but I think he likes more of the fray than he gets on the wing. If he settles down here he is so thorough that he will do even better.

There was one aspect of the Town's play that called for praise. They stayed ever so much better than Brighton, and I believe they could have stood another 90 minutes' grueling—most of them, anyway—and that is a feather in the cap of Willie Barr, the trainer.

Brighton's defence was unsteady under pressure, though Jenkin was strong and resourceful. Hawley was a grand pivot, and his companions worked. Hopkins was the brainiest forward, and he gave Wilson some lovely passes. Nightingale was clever, and Jennings' opportunism worth a lot, while the amateur Goord made a satisfactory debut. He is not a Tom Cook, but a few players of his promise would do Luton a lot of good.

There was a better attendance, nearly 7,000 spectators—or, to please some of the friends that sit behind the Press-box, 7,000 supporters.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE.

ST. ALBANS CITY AGAIN LOSE.

"Sphinx" writes:—"Although beaten at Clarence Park on Saturday by Dulwich Hamlet, for the second time in eight days, St. Albans City did not disgrace themselves. Had the game been more tightly handled than was the case, the 'Citizens' would certainly have shared the spoils. The outstanding characteristic of a dazing match was the bustling method employed on both sides. Sometimes it was too much in evidence, particularly on the Dulwich side, and there were more free-kicks than have been seen in any other match since the beginning of the season. The players let their keenness run away with them, especially in the second half, when the teams were on equal terms. E. Kail, the Hamlet's great opportunist and markman, scored twice in the first half, and W. Minter found the net for the 'Citizens' a few minutes before the interval, and the equaliser shortly after the change. Naturally, both teams were keen on winning, and the 'Citizens' had every promise of success when Minter went to meet a rebound from Rowe's shot which crashed against the bar. Minter was tripped up, but the referee ignored appeals for a penalty, and a few minutes later Kail scored the winning goal for Dulwich. The crowd took umbrage at what they considered the unfairness of the referee, and some demonstrated against those who had offended the code of amateur football. Fortunately, the police and officials of the club prevented a scene. The Luton players, P. Bird, F. Jenkins, and P. Pierce, played an outstanding game, the last-named being one of the best forwards on the field."

RESULTS IN BRIEF.

FOOTBALL.

Westbourne Athletic 1, St. Mary's 0.

BINGHAM-COX CUP: 1st Round.

Batford O.B. 7, Gustard Wood 3.

HOCKEY.

Luton Town Sports Club 7, 1st Beds. & Heris. Regt. 6.