

SMASHING VICTORY AT ABERDARE.

LUTON TOWN'S REMARKABLE SUCCESS.

Half-Back Scores Twice.

At Aberdare on Saturday.—

LUTON TOWN 5

ABERDARE ATHLETIC 2

Luton scorers: Shankly, Thompson, Graham (2), Anderson.

Aberdare scorers: Smith, Martin (penalty).

LUTON.—Purdy; Anderson, Till; Richards, Jennings, Graham; Miller, Shankly, Littlewood, Dennis, Thompson.

ABERDARE.—Brown; Walsh, Hickie; Miller, Harwood, Nicol; James, Martin, Smith, Burnham, Taylor.

Incredulity was writ large on the faces of many of the Town's supporters last Saturday afternoon, when, following the Reserves' match, they awaited the result of the game at Aberdare. No wonder, for not since the war have the Town scored five goals in a game on foreign soil.

Some explanation of the difference in the names of the goal-scorers above from those given in the "Saturday Telegraph" is necessary. In the first place it should be stated that the difficulty of getting through a report in anything like reasonable time for the "Saturday Telegraph" makes journeys to Merthyr or Aberdare very much of a gamble, since neither is a big place and facilities for telegraph or telephone are not ideal by a long way, and for that reason we had to rely on others for the report. The best possible arrangement was made, this being through the Exchange Telegraph Company, who have a telephone on the Aberdare ground, and it was decided that the report was to be telephoned by a capable man.

The trouble arose through an injury sustained by Anderson in the first half, causing his retirement, and the team was

RE-SHUFFLED.

Apparently the reporter did not trouble to verify the names of the scorers, but credited them to the players according to the positions on the programme. Immediately we learned the mistake we took steps to get into touch with other sources, and this morning received a report that should be something like correct.

It was an awful day, and it was a wonder there were 4,000 spectators present, as the sheltered accommodation is limited, and unemployment is acute. The Athletic had a fairly strong side out, and were justified in thinking that they would take both points. They opened as if they meant to do so, and in three minutes SMITH had beaten Purdy after Taylor had done the donkey work. The Town were slow in settling down, and Purdy did

A LOT OF GOOD WORK

before the Town opened out. It was the right wing that did the damage, and a corner was forced, from which Miller placed the ball so well that SHANKLY equalised. Play was fairly even as the Town got better together, but Purdy was the more often in action, and he did many good things. Raids by the Town wingers were always dangerous, however, and from a really fine bit of combination Shankly nodded the ball down to Littlewood, who nicely beat Brown, but to the dismay of the Town the point was disallowed for offside. To add to their discomfiture the referee adjudged that Richards handled intentionally a ball that was going out of play, and awarded a penalty-kick. This was taken by MARTIN, who gave the home team the lead. Ten minutes before the interval Anderson had to retire with ankle trouble, and Jennings had to reconstruct his team. He put Richards to right back, brought Graham across from the left flank to the right, and asked Dennis to play left-half. One would have thought that Graham would have joined Till at back, and that would have simplified matters, but it was a bold stroke, and as events proved, highly successful.

THE HANDICAP

Under which the Town laboured acted as a stimulus rather than an oppression, and every man went into the fray with remarkable vigour and dash. In fact the team never looked back, and when THOMPSON got a fine equalising goal with the last kick before the interval, following good work by the right wing, they got no more than they deserved, and retired for the refreshment with the score:—

ABERDARE 2

LUTON 5

When the second half began Anderson was placed on the extreme left wing, Littlewood going to inside left and Thompson centre-forward. The result was a surprise to everybody—even to the players themselves. Aberdare began well again, but the Town defenders were in masterful mood, and the halves got such a real grip of the game that the home team simply faded out of the picture. Their enthusiasm was good to see, and when GRAHAM, who was doing splendid work, scored with a lightning shot, the home defence went all to pieces. GRAHAM again scored with a tremendous drive from a free-kick, the goalkeeper being completely beaten by the pace of the ball. The Town forwards made light of the opposition, Miller and Shankly especially doing grand work, and ANDERSON completed the havoc by scoring a fifth goal shortly before the end.

The second half had not been long in progress before the spectators were cheering the Town players more than their own team, and at the close it was generally agreed that the victory was

EVERY WHIT DESERVED.

Purdy's fine display in the first half-hour, when the "Darians" had the pull, had not a little to do with the success. Till was again in grand trim, and Richards' display in the second half brings yet another problem for the management to consider. He kicked strongly with either foot, and tackled with vigour and keenness. Jennings and Graham played in masterly style at half, but the surprise was Dennis, who put up a remarkable display against a warm wigg when he went to half-back. The forwards were eager and thrustful. The speed of Miller was a big factor, and he was admirably served by Shankly. Littlewood was doing well at centre-forward until the change was necessary, and he maintained it as an inside forward. When Thompson took over the leadership the pair of them gave the home backs no peace, and with Anderson also putting in good work, considering that he was damaged goods, the effectiveness of the line was nothing short of remarkable.

It was a great win, and, under all the circumstances, probably the best league performance of the Town since the war.