

REVENGE AT LAST

Luton Town Give Watford a Severe Thrashing.

Five Goals Without Reply.

(By "CRUSADER.")

WHY don't they always play like that and so win promotion?" I was asked by a young lady who witnessed the match on the Luton Town ground on Saturday. I had to confess that I did not know the answer under about a column of explanation. I agree that the game the Town played would win promotion if it could be produced in every match, for there was no question whatever about the merits of their success. I have never seen Watford so utterly demoralised and disheartened, and so thoroughly outclassed.

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To win by the odd goal is an unusual feat for Luton when Watford are in opposition, but to trounce them to the extent of five goals, and never a huke in the lot, well, it was something beyond the wildest dreams of a supporter of either club. Crestfallen and bewildered the Watford followers could only conjure up consolation from the many victories they have achieved at Luton's expense, and they did not attempt to gloss over the fact that their team had been completely overplayed.

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Watford were at full strength, and Luton turned out the side as at Newport. It was doubtful until half an hour before the start whether Neal would be able to play, but he reported fit, and was very earnest about it, too, and so he was included. Richards had choice of ends. The wind was in a irksome mood, but, taking the game as a whole, there was little luck either way. The main difference between the teams was that the Town worked in unison once they got into their stride. They kept the ball on the move, and parted to good purpose. In stamina, speed and skill they were superior.

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Watford's right wing did brisk work, thanks to the nice passes issued by Pagnam, and Munnar and Till had their hands full for a few minutes. Harris was very fast, too, and Graham's best was required. The Town improved, and gave Williams and his backs a hard time, and there were hot scuffles in the Watford goal. Quite a lot of corner-kicks were conceded, and Williams often had to handle, although the Town forwards did not shoot frequently enough. Excitement wore down after a time, and the Town's pressure increased, and the enthusiasm of the crowd waxed as the minutes sped.

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Thirty-four minutes had passed when the first goal came. Moffat, forced towards the flag, got in a lofty centre. The ball hung under the bar, but Williams managed to tip it away. Agnew and DENNIS were close up, and the latter kicked the ball into the net. A brief incursion by Watford, and then the Town were at it again, and Slade and Gregory were glad to kick anywhere for safety. A second goal put the Town supporters on good terms with themselves. Norman Thomson made a clever dribble, drawing the defence splendidly before presenting AGNEW with a beautiful opening, and he shot a very fine goal, the ball travelling all along the carpet into the net, Williams being helpless to avert.

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There was much speculation as to whether the Town could maintain their advantage in the second half. The pace at which Watford re-started evoked some fear that they would draw level. All the team played up strongly, and hefty work was necessary by the home defenders, and once Purdy brilliantly saved a great shot from Stephenson. Ten minutes after the resumption, however, the Town were three goals up. Moffat had missed when given a grand opening by Thompson, the shot striking the bar, but Thompson then snapped up a pass back from Strain and went off with Agnew in a fine passing movement, and THOMPSON beat Williams at close quarters.

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Watford were now sorely harassed, and the result seemed assured when NORMAN THOMSON made a delightful dribble that took him clean through, and he beat Williams from close in. It was one of the finest individual efforts seen on the ground for many a long day. Thence it was simply a matter of marking time, for Watford were well held, and the Town players were attacking for long periods, and Williams made several fine saves, while there were easy opportunities missed. Shortly before the end AGNEW accepted a pass from Dennis and went right in to lift the ball over Williams' head for a goal.

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It was a really great victory, and the Town have not played better football for the last two or three seasons. Every goal was well worked for, and if there were a fault it was that the forwards did not shoot often enough. They wanted to get on the goal-line before they put the ball into the net, yet there were several times when they could hardly have missed scoring had they shot away from Williams. Still, their work forward was quite wonderful in comparison with most of the games seen on the ground this season. The combination all round was vastly improved, and elicited frequent outbursts of applause.

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The thrilling footwork of Norman Thomson, the activities of Agnew and his assistance to Dennis, the close-up work of Jim Thompson, and the response of Moffat and Dennis to the inside men's nursing was bound to succeed, and will beat any team in the Division if it can be regularly reproduced. They were plied with beautiful passes from all the middle men, who also followed up splendidly. Neal once more played a fine game at centre-half, and the robust work of Richards, and the resolute and brainy tackling by Millar were altogether too much for the visiting attack. Graham and Till were very safe in the rear, and Purdy had but two difficult propositions during the game.

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For Watford Williams could not be blamed in the slightest degree. He had no chance with the shots that scored. Slade was the better back, and Strain often showed great skill at half, while in the forward line Pagnam managed to get in a lot of good work, though he was well

watched, and Swan was very elusive at times.

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Mr. Gould controlled the game splendidly, and, generally, pleased the 7,000 spectators.

LUTON TOWN		5
WATFORD		0

LUTON.—Purdy; Graham, Till; Richards. Neal, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis.

WATFORD.—Williams; Slade, Gregory; Smith (F.), Smith (E.), Strain; Stephenson, Bell, Pagnam, Swan, Harris.