

FOUR MORE GOALS.

LUTON TOWN'S HALF-HOUR OF SUCCESS.

RANGERS BEATEN BEFORE THE INTERVAL

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 4

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 0

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

RANGERS.—Hedben; Pierce, Plunkett; John, Cable, Hirst; Brown, Paterson, Johnson, Burgess, Spottiswood.

Referee.—J. R. Butler, London.

Before the game James Thompson, the Town's big centre-forward, was bemoaning the fact that he did not get a lot more goals the previous Saturday. I ventured the encouragement that if he continued to get a goal per match he would have good reason to be gratified before the end of the season, and added that I would be more than satisfied if the Town put their goal average on the right side, as that would mean a jump of two or three places in the League table. They levelled the goal average all right, and James got a goal, yet I cannot say that I was completely satisfied. Perhaps it would be better to say that I did not get beyond the satisfied state.

At half-time the Town had

WON THE MATCH,

for they led by four goals, but the quality of the play in the second half lowered our glee a lot. There was the usual ten minutes irritation or a ragged and funeral-pace start by the Town, then the customary improvement, and before the first retirement a complete mastery of the game. Afterwards it seemed as though the Town were content with their lead. By seal skill, combined with grit and determination, they put on four goals in half an hour. In that period the team played as one man. In the second half there were eleven units, for combination was sacrificed to individual success. Had the first half tactics been maintained the score might well have been doubled.

At the close the Rangers were well beaten, but I am not going to subscribe to the view that as a team they were four goals worse than the Town.

Before the game Mr. Hewison, the Rangers' manager, told me that they had experienced

A LOT OF BAD LUCK.

"Wait until you have seen them play," he said. I think all who saw the match will agree that the Rangers should not be at the bottom of the League. Their play was in advance of that of teams who have met with success or partial success at Luton, and the style of the forwards was often of the most attractive type of football, yet they failed miserably in front of goal. Had they rounded off their attacks as splendidly as they won their openings, the Town would not have had much to spare at the end.

Even in the opening stages, when they were facing the slight breeze, and the rain was uncomfortable for both sides, the Rangers attacked most frequently, but from beginning to end they could not find that little bit of nippiness that would carry them to success.

MANY NARROW ESCAPES.

The Town goal had in the second half, and at one time I caught myself hoping that one or other of the three inside forwards would score in order that the Town might receive the impetus to repeat their first-half performance. At least two easy chances came the way of the Rangers' inside forwards, but always something or someone intervened to frustrate their intentions. Purdy's lucky star was in attendance, for when he did not impress the Rangers did not.

The goals were scored very largely through the success of the left wing, where Agnew and Dennis were on their top form, and working at a pace and vigour that assured success. Receiving from Millar they carried play well down, and then transferred to Thompson, who in turn passed for NORMAN THOMPSON to beat Hedben all ends up with a very fine left-foot shot at the ball on the move. Twelve minutes had passed then, and the goal

ACTED LIKE A TONIC

to the Town, who then amazed the Rangers' defence by the workmanlike tactics and the speed of their movements. So Dennis and Agnew engineered another attack, and the ball was passed to Norman Thomson. He slipped through and pushed the ball past Hedben as the latter ran out. The goalkeeper prevented Thompson passing him, however, and the ball would not have reached the goal had not Dennis rushed up and netted. To the astonishment of the crowd, the referee pointed for a free-kick. Just why none seemed to understand. He consulted a linesman on the Town's appeal, but adhered to his decision, although I am informed that the linesman afterwards said he declared for a goal. The matter must remain a mystery.

Almost immediately, however, the Town left wing came again, and Dennis was almost through when John lifted him

CLEAN OFF HIS FEET

and laid him in the muddy goal-mouth. The referee awarded a penalty-kick, and DENNIS made no mistake from the spot. The Rangers made several fast raids, and Purdy had to be on the alert, but the Town's movements were fraught with danger, chiefly because of the pace they made. Jim Thompson got another helping hand from the left, and when tackled sent out nicely to MOFFAT, who ran in and lofted the ball over Hedben's head and it went into the far corner of the net. The Rangers never lost heart, but they were overrun, and shot after shot whizzed past the goal or was stopped by Hedben. Another strong attack, however, enabled JIM THOMPSON to extricate himself and all from a ruck of players, and a terrific shot beat Hedben for the fourth goal.

More goals should have come before the change of ends, one fine chance being missed by Jim Thompson, but there was

PLENTY OF EXCITEMENT

when the interval came. The story of the second half is already told above. The Town were still the better side, but there was lacking that bit of sting in front of goal, and many chances were frittered away by dalliance. Many splendid shots were sent in, and on two occasions the crowd shouted goal, only to see Hedben make glorious saves when

Jim Thompson sent in lightning shots. The Town were well on top and appeared to take liberties. Time after time the crowd yelled at players to drop the frilly work and to get on with the goal-getting, and it may be as well for players to remember that once they have given a crowd a taste of play such was served up in the first half, they want no other dish. The Rangers profited a good deal by

THE TOWN'S DELINQUENCIES, and often attacked, but they were very weak in front of goal. Twice Purdy dropped the ball when the Rangers were dangerous, and several times the home backs floundered in the slough, while Johnson and Burgess once missed a golden chance by hesitating, with the result that Millar turned up to surprise them and divert a shot over the bar.

The success was well-merited, for the Town were the better side, but such a game display as the Rangers gave deserved sympathy. They were triers to the end, and their lowly position in the League seems inexplicable. Hedben kept goal grandly, and Pierce was a strong back, while Cable did much clever work as pivot, and Paterson was a fine forward. Indeed, the Rangers' inside forwards showed an understanding that evoked much admiration, and drew the best from our defenders.

Purdy did not have one of his best days, though he had

A RATHER LUCKY DAY.

When things looked easiest he contrived to give the spectators a thrill in some way, but when they looked most difficult he brought off fine saves. The ball was heavy and greasy, and that probably accounted for his mishandling on two or three occasions. The backs were very fine. Graham was magnificent again, and surely has never been better. Till drew upon his skill to the delight of many and to the irritation of others. His beautiful length kicking and his brainy tackling were good as ever, but the temptation to dribble was at times too strong.

The middleline did not play up to the standard of the previous game, probably because the conditions were worse, and on the sloppy mire on the stand side of the ground the men in possession was hard to dispossess if he kept his head. Millar had

THE HARDEST TASK.

for Paterson was very clever, but the Town half-back put up a fine game. Richards, apart from two or three occasions when he tried to take liberties, was great, and his strength and recovery disconcerted his opponents. Many times he and Millar, by adroit change of tactics, outwitted the Rangers' defenders, and attacks expected from one flank were suddenly found to come from the other—a harassing conundrum at all times. Neal did not succeed to the extent of the previous week, but he did fine work in the mud against a tricky inside attack. He did not distribute so well as hitherto.

The left flank was the more aggressive because Agnew and Dennis got more of the ball, but

THE HAPPY FEATURE

was that the line once more played well together and with one purpose. Surely Norman Thomson and Agnew have now satisfied the critics, and while Jim Thompson may not be ideal as a leader, his effectiveness, thanks to his great strength and fearlessness, cannot be questioned. We may still deplore his slowness in getting away or in completing a movement, but the Rangers' hefty defenders will pay tribute to his usefulness. Moffat did better than against Watford because he passed better, and he was always troublesome.

If the Town can reproduce this form away from home they will soon bring back the crowd. Indeed, they have already done so, for in spite of the wretched conditions there were well over 6,000 present on Saturday.

HITCHIN AND DISTRICT FOOTBALL.

LETCHWORTH ENTERTAIN WEST HAM RESERVES.

The great game looked forward to by football enthusiasts in the district, resulted in Letchworth being defeated. The ground was pretty well packed, and the home club have no fear but that their expenses will be fully covered. Despite unfavourable climatic conditions, those who attended were not disappointed, as a very good game ensued. A few of the visiting players have played in the "Hammers" first eleven, and although Letchworth altered their team considerably from what was on the programme, it could not be said that it was to their disadvantage. The home team played good football, and right at the start got the ball past all the visiting defence, Davy unluckily shooting against the side net. This was contrary to the expectations of the visitors, who set up an attack, and after fifteen minutes Fletcher did the trick. A little later Ludwick, jumping in front of one of West Ham's players, caught the ball on the arm, and a penalty was allowed, from which Campbell scored. This was the extent of the scoring up to half-time. It was a ding-dong struggle all through the second half. The visitors put through two goals which were disallowed for off-side, and Letchworth also had a goal disallowed. The game ended with the same score as at half-time: West Ham Reserves 2, Letchworth 2.

T. Olney, the home goalkeeper, played a great game, and on the final sounding of the whistle, Campbell, the visitors' centre-forward, shook hands and congratulated him on his magnificent defence. Letchworth team: T. Olney; Garrett, F. H. Garwood; W. Ludwick, R. Brown, A. J. Cater; J. W. Davy, Webster, Sells, Tasker, Gray.

BEDFORD HOSPITAL CUP.

Bletchley 3, Wootton Blue Cross 2.

BEDFORD LEAGUE.

Kempston G.F. 3, Elstow 3.
Wootton Res. 5, Bedford Albions 2.
Newport Town 4, Stantonbury 3.
Wolverton Res. 5, Kempston Rovers 1.
Harrod United 2, Potton 2.
Bedford C.L.H. 12, Bushmead Albions 1.