

BEATEN AT BRIGHTON.

LUTON TOWN UNLUCKY AFTER A PLUCKY FIGHT.

DOWN BY TWO GOALS CLEAR.

(By "CRUSADER.")

BRIGHTON AND HOVE 2
LUTON TOWN 0

BRIGHTON.—Webb; Smith, Jenkins; Curran, Hawley, Little; Nightingale, Cheetham, Jennings, Hopkins, Wilson.

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

Referee.—S. A. Donaldson, Ilford.

Sitting beside me in the 'bus from Brighton to Hove was a one-legged man with a lively tongue. His loquacity extended from a bitter opinion of "the old hens of Hove who object to a woodbine in a 'bus," to the secret information that he was that day detailed "to watch a Luton half-back worth pots of money to any club on earth." He was a merry fellow whose wits had been gently oiled. For himself he did not care "if it rained boiled beef and carrots," but "for the Albion's sake he did not like the rain," which was more like spindrift than a cloud break. On a dry ground the "little fellows" of the Albion would "make Luton want to go back to their hat-making, but on a wet ground they were not good enough to write begging letters to their mothers."

During the first half I thought that the cripple was

A VERY GOOD JUDGE.

for the general play of the Town was good enough to bring 2 point from anywhere. They were much the better side, and as both teams were trying to play scientific football the game was very interesting. After the interval a change came over the play of the Albion, and they had a lot the better of the struggle for something like 20 minutes. For one thing, the breeze became fairly stiff, and it was at their backs, but I think the main reason for their improvement was the change of method. They kicked harder, hustled more, and the backs threatened to spoil the spirit in which the game had been started. Jenkins seems fated to lay out a Luton player. He did it on Saturday, running across and knocking out George Dennis when the latter was through, while Smith very badly fouled Jim Thompson. Apart from these

UGLY INCIDENTS

there was scarcely anything to find fault about in the play.

With the referee, however, I do join issue. He gave a free-kick against Jim Thompson for a square shoulder charge, and from that free-kick came the goal scored by NIGHTINGALE, who seemed to be just offside. The Press Box is in practically a direct line with the goal at this end, and when Jennings headed the ball just over Rennie and Till, Nightingale was waiting to take it. At the other end Agnew was brought down from behind when he was clean through, and if ever there were a trip this was it. Dennis also was similarly stretched on the ground when he was not half a dozen yards from goal. It was unfortunate, but

THE REFEREE'S ERRORS

were essential in Luton's defeat.

There was attack after attack by the Town in the first half, but the forwards were unsteady in front of goal, and while Webb made fine saves, he should have been beaten on four or five occasions at least. The sparkling runs of Dennis and Agnew gave a lot of trouble, and usually Norman Thomson made such splendid use of the ball that an attack invariably followed his receipt of a pass, even in his own half. Once, indeed, from his work Jim Thompson was able to get right away on the left and to tap the ball across the goal-mouth, but the other forwards missed it.

Nightingale's goal came after 16 minutes' play, and thereafter to the interval Purdy had very few shots to stop. Jennings was

THE LIKELY MARKSMAN

in the home attack, and try as he would he could not get in a decent effort, because he was not given the chance, until just before the change of ends, and he should then have made better use of a nice pass from Hopkins. He shot wide. The Albion, it was admitted on all hands, were very fortunate to cross over with a goal lead.

BRIGHTON 1
LUTON 0

The second half was much more in favour of the home side, but there was such a great defence put up by Graham and Till that the Albion were lucky to get another goal. From the Press Box, which is the worst accommodation of its kind in the South, so far as following

the play closely is concerned, it appeared to me that Purdy

WENT DOWN TOO LATE

to a shot that was not travelling particularly fast, and the ball passed under his body. I give that with some reserve, owing to the long distance between the Press Box and the goal, and the mist that made players well-nigh indistinguishable, but many who were nearer held the same view. If anyone deserved to score, however, JENNINGS did, for he manoeuvred for position very neatly, and he shot as two men closed upon him.

There were a few exciting scenes in the Luton goal-area after this, but Purdy made capital saves, and the backs were right on top of their form. Unfortunately, they had more to do than they should have had. What I anticipated before the game came true in the second half. The home forwards were rather too strong for our middle line when bustling tactics were adopted, and the Town seemed to be

LACKING A LEADER

that could pull the team together as a whole. Jim Thompson did his best in the front line, and that the home goal escaped altogether was due to hesitation rather than pluck, and luck rather than secure defence. Graham, for instance, hit the bar from a free-kick when Webb was well beaten, and Norman Thomson and Jim Thompson each scraped the ball inches wide. Still, the more robust play of the Albion gave them the advantage in the second half, and because they took two of their chances and the Town did not, they held the points.

The outstanding player on the field was Till. From start to finish he was brilliant, his kicking being beautiful in precision and length, and his tackling almost uncanny. Time after time the crowd was

COMPELLED TO CHEER.

and it was delightful to see the way he fooled Jennings. The big forward was the best of the Brighton pack, and would readily give a testimonial to the skill of the Town's left back. Graham also put up a grand game, and none could have wished for better backs on this day's play. Purdy may or may not have been at fault over the second goal, but made some splendid saves in the second half. The middle men were better before the interval than afterwards. They then fed their front line to good purpose, but in the second half both Neal and Rennie seemed to find the speed and hustling a severe tax. Millar was sorely tried, but put up a grand game, and Nightingale was not so prominent as he has been in home games, according to the word of the home supporters. Rennie will eventually fulfil

THE HIGH HOPES

of success. Of that I feel assured. Some of his touches were very fine, and his passes often opened up the game. At the moment he is not quite as robust as is necessary, but that is coming gradually, and when he has a little more weight and experience he will be a rare pivot. Neal, whom we must not forget is still out of place, worked as hard as ever, and with some degree of success, though Wilson had too many chances of right of way.

The forwards were up against a much more rugged proposition than in recent games. Contrast of styles and method would probably give them a slight advantage in all except finishing power. Frequently their passing movements won applause, and it was only in the rounding off of attack that they failed. Moffat gave Little and Jenkins

PLENTY OF WORK.

and his speed and trickiness should have led to more than one goal. Norman Thomson again showed delightful footwork and thoughtfulness, and shot fairly well. Jim Thompson led the line with his usual enthusiasm, but lacked promptitude in front of goal. Once he was unfortunate in kicking up a piece of Mother Earth when he had forced a passage and looked a scorer. Agnew worked tremendously all through, and Dennis, in spite of several hard knocks, more than held his own.

For the home side Webb kept goal well, and the backs, though disposed to roughness, were solid and stubborn. Hawley was a great centre-half in a strong line, and Jennings and Nightingale were the best of the forwards, the centre-forward playing a very fine game.

And the cripple, leaving the field, called out to me, "We were too rumbustious for 'em this half."

There were upwards of 7,000 spectators.