

"BEES" BEATEN

LUTON TOWN WIN AT HOME.

JIM THOMPSON GETS A BRACE.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 4 goals
BRENTFORD 2 "

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

BRENTFORD. — Thomson; Donnelly, McClennon; Noble, Rae, Walton; Hendren, Lane, Watkins, Finlayson, Douglas.

Referee.—Mr. H. V. Stott, Tamworth.

An amateur player of no mean repute in Luton and district remarked at the interval on Saturday that the Town were fortunate to be leading by two goals. I agreed, but at the end had come to the conclusion that the good fortune was not contained wholly in the scoring of one or two goals, but rather in the vastly improved play of the middle line as compared with the showing at Selhurst. This was not so apparent in the first half, perhaps, but, taking the game throughout, it might have been a different line—so much better were they. As Billy Barr put it in his own shrewd way afterwards, "Better, certainly, but still a lot below what we expect."

Brentford gave the Town
A VERY HARD GAME,
and their second half successes demonstrated very clearly how unwise it is for a team to ease up even when they have established a lead of three goals clear. Another slice of luck and Brentford would have drawn level; two slices would have won. In the first half they played the more scientific football as between halves and forwards, and only weak finishing was responsible for arrears. They had the advantage, if any, of the breeze, and when the Town got it the balance of play was considerably in the Town's favour. So convinced of winning were Luton then, that they began to take things too comfortably. In two minutes Brentford disposed of the sense of security so effectively that the Town came into their own again and soon got another goal.

As Brentford have been showing such fine form it may be accounted

A GOOD WIN,
and for once in a way major honours did not go to the Town defence. They did well on the whole, but there were lapses. To the infusion of spirit in the middle line and the whole-heartedness of the attack praise is chiefly due. The playful breeze disturbed the peace of mind of many players. Sometimes they were too early, and at other times overdue when the ball came from the upper regions, where, all too often, it was to be seen. Very often, too, they were tricked by the wind twisting the ball in a direction that the strict law of gravity would make impossible. Intermittently there were spells of pretty play, and at no time during the game could a charge of vicious play be preferred.

Thomson had
THE MORE EXACTING WORK
before a goal was scored, though the Brentford forwards had the more chances. Once there was a melee in the Brentford goalmouth, and how Jim Thompson and Norman Thomson failed to get the ball through was a mystery. The best shot put in at either end during this half was a free kick from Graham, when Thomson made a grand save at the expense of a corner. The "Bees" showed better idea of construction, but there was more suggestion of deadliness in the Town's attack, especially when Dennis got the ball across almost perfectly several times. However, the first goal came along the gilt-edged path of luck. The Brentford goalkeeper diverted a centre from Dennis; Moffat returned the ball by screwing it from the line; AGNEW, on the fringe of a ruck of players, also screwed in a shot as he fell. The ball would probably have gone out of play, but it struck Noble's legs, and

THE SPIN CARRIED IT
into the net. There was nothing much to enthuse about for the next six or seven minutes, and then Rennie got possession clear of the visiting forwards and halves. JIM THOMPSON was well up the field, with Donnelly in attendance, and called for a pass. Rennie promptly complied, gauging pace and direction to a nicety. Thompson seized, and, stalling off the challenge of the back, went well in before shooting hard and low. The goalkeeper went down and managed to touch the ball, but could not stop it, and the Town were two goals up. They had the better of the play to the interval.

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
BRENTFORD Nil

The second half play was not exhilarating for some time, although interest was maintained, mainly through individual efforts, in which Dennis was prominent. There should have been at least one, if not two, penalty kicks. Noble once deliberately "knocked on," an awkward bouncing ball, and then Dennis was badly brought down by Donnelly well inside the area, but the referee ignored the strong claims of the Town and would not consult the linesmen. However, a goal came some twelve or thirteen minutes after the re-start. Millar took a free kick and put in a fine shot, which struck the underside of the bar. The goalkeeper pushed the ball away as it fell among a crowd of players, and JIM THOMPSON hit it hard and high.

INTO THE NET.
Play was generally in midfield after this, but the Town players were not going into the contest with the vim they had shown previously, and for some twenty minutes play was of a quiet character. The Brentford left wing, however, gave a lot of trouble, and Douglas was particularly active, thanks to the intelligent work of Finlayson, who made beautiful openings. About twelve minutes from the end Douglas swept the ball across the goalmouth. It seemed to be either for Till or Purdy to get it away. I had not a good view of the scene, but there seemed to be some sort of muddle, and LANE, who had all along been diligent in his efforts to get an opening, nipped up and managed to get the ball into the net. There came a quick raid by the Town, but the ball came back again and was swung out to the left. Douglas centred beautifully, and TILL, trying to turn the ball outward, put it
INTO HIS OWN GOAL,
Purdy having no earthly chance to get near it. The Town players saw the "red light," and

renewed their efforts. Dennis began a movement, and then Jim Thompson carried it on. He went right to the goal-line before screwing the ball into the goal-mouth. MOFFAT had run in, and without hesitation he let drive, and the goalkeeper was helpless to prevent the fourth goal. Immediately afterwards the Town should have scored again, but failed, and the end came with the score as above.

Just how to apportion fault for Brentford's first goal I have no idea. I do not think it was wholly with the misunderstanding between Purdy and Till. It began with slackness on the flank. Neither should I care to say that either the goalkeeper or back was responsible. They should have managed it between them, but did not. Purdy made a few good saves, but the defence seemed to find

THE BREEZE TROUBLESOME,
indeed, and so we did not see Till in such great form as of late. He did fine work, and was unfortunate to put through his own goal. Graham played a good game with few errors, and now and then won praise for dashing work. Neal was very good for an hour, but in the last twenty minutes had a warm time of it. Rennie gave a show more like that of his debut with the first team than in any other game. I like his cool calculation, the quick-wittedness in which the pushing of the ball for a few inches beats an opponent quite hopelessly. He put in many good passes, and restored confidence pretty thoroughly. Millar never seemed to be uncomfortable, and I have never seen Pat Hendren have a worse afternoon. He could do practically nothing with Millar.

The forward fault once more was

THE FALLING BACK
of the inside wingers. It is good to see foraging like theirs, but they are missed when the ball comes from the wings. Norman Thomson was very clever, but had no luck. Agnew worked as hard as ever, and Dennis was back at his best. Moffat justifies more and more his presence in the first eleven, and did splendid work just when it was most necessary, while Jim Thompson kept close association with the backs—too close for their liking, and was usually on the spot when required. He got his twenty-first goal.

For Brentford, Thomson kept goal finely. He had no chance with the scoring shots. The backs were big kickers, but showed no special skill in tackling, and they should have done better behind a good line of halves. The forwards worked hard, with the left wing the best of the line.

There were 7,000 spectators.

ISTHMIAN LEAGUE.

ST. ALBANS CITY v. LONDON CALEDONIANS.

Sphinx writes:—"Weakened by the absence of W. Minter, P. Bird, and A. Bishop, St. Albans City did well to lower the colours of London Caledonians at Clarence Park on Saturday, thereby lessening the visitors' chances of retaining the Isthmian League championship. The Caledons were also unhappily placed in having to field a junior in place of Eric Gates at right back, a reserve half-back line and some reserve forwards, through injuries and other reasons. The display might have been better but for a high wind, which made ball control difficult. It blew from end to end, and getting the advantage in the first half, the Caledons should have scored several times. Three factors robbed them of goals—erratic shooting, C. Cannon between the sticks, and a spilling pair of backs in S. F. Duller and G. M. Anderson. Unexpectedly the Citizens scored what proved to be the winning goal two minutes from the interval, the movement producing it deserving the reward. P. Winter and P. Pierce carried the ball down the wing from Duller's free-kick, and the winger centred for Jenkins to head the ball against the bar. Pierce met the rebound and drove well home. The Citizens monopolised the play in the second half, and C. Evans, in the Caledons' goal, was bombarded, but the City forwards were as erratic as the Caledons', and the first half goal decided the issue. Result:—

ST. ALBANS CITY 1
LONDON CALEDONIANS 0

HONOURS FOR BOARDERS.

DUNSTABLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL SPORTS.

Watched by a shivering crowd, Dunstable Grammar School sports were held on Saturday afternoon. Despite the wintry conditions, good sport was seen, and one or two capital times were registered. A pleasing feature was the house spirit, which was much in evidence, all the competitors obviously running for the honour of their own particular house rather than to win individual prizes.

Honours were captured by boarders for the first time for about five years, Thring House securing both Senior and Junior Championship Cups, and ~~the~~ captain of Thring House, winning the Victor Ludorum Cup. Competition was keen for the senior cup, and the positions were only decided in the last two or three events. The tug-of-war is yet to be held, but its result cannot alter the order of the houses, which was:—1, Thring, 161 points; 2, Dunstable, 149; 3, Brown, 128; 4, Luton, 99. The order for the junior cup was:—1, Thring, 121; 2, Brown and Dunstable, 99; 3, Luton, 80. For the Victor Ludorum Cup Butt earned 50 points and the runner-up, Pickering, who ran exceedingly well, 45.

The cups and prizes were distributed by Mrs. Thompson, wife of the headmaster. An interesting presentation was a beautifully bound book, given by a friend of the school, to Morris, who although not a winner in any race, ran extraordinarily well for his house in every event he entered.