

SECOND CONSECUTIVE WIN.

LUTON TOWN DEFEAT SOUTHEND UNITED.

AN UNPLEASANT GAME.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 2
SOUTHEND UNITED 0

LUTON.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Robinson.

SOUTHEND.—Hayes; Bell, Sayles; Jewhurst, O'Beave, Andrews; Johnson, Graver, Hicks, Donovan, Smith.

Referee.—Mr. J. Kelley, London.

Lacking though the Good Friday game was as a scientific display, there were more disquieting phases in the Saturday encounter with Southend. The "Seasiders" had been taken severely to task for their tactics at Selhurst on the previous day, and I should think that they aroused the ire of the Luton crowd more than any team that has visited Luton this season. The "stop-at-any-price" methods were not dealt with by the referee as sternly as they should have been, and he allowed a lot of wrangling and argument not only among players, but about his decisions. One of the old school of referees told me that had he been harassed by players a tithe as much as was Mr. Kelley, there would have been marching orders.

THE WHISTLE WAS BUSY

after a quarter of an hour, for the visitors were pushing, elbowing, and charging unfairly to frustrate attack. Even then many offences were missed, and Mr. Kelley was altogether too lenient.

The Town played better than on Friday, but play did not reach the quality shown since Christmas in the majority of home matches. It would not be fair to say the whole of the improvement forward was due to the change made. Moffat was certainly more at home on the right wing, but the inside forwards gave

A MUCH BETTER GAME.

this especially applying to Norman Thomson. After all, the light ball and hard ground were not to the liking of either the middle or forward lines. Control was difficult, and inability to trap the ball nicely was a fault of most of the players, since it came from the ground too sharply.

After a painfully slow start the Town asserted superiority, and were always cleverer. Just about half of the first period had elapsed when Agnew opened out the game with a pass to the right wing, and Moffat went right away to centre from the line, and NORMAN THOMSON met the ball first time and

BANGED IT INTO GOAL.

Hayes hit the ball, but it was travelling at such pace that it went into the net. Mingay had a few awkward propositions, but Hayes had six times the amount of work, though it was not particularly troublesome.

In the second half the Town were almost continuously attacking, but there was a lack of sting in finishing. Hayes, however, made several

good saves, and his backs covered him well. As the pressure increased the visitors became wilder in their endeavours to avert a goal, and when Sayles badly fouled Jim Thompson a penalty-kick was awarded. Thompson took the kick, after a prolonged squabble by the visitors. Hayes adopted

A CURIOUS ATTITUDE.

He took up his stand at one end of the goal, and, as Thompson framed for taking the kick, strode quickly to the other side, returning as the Town player shot. The ball went just wide, and Hayes was apparently explaining to his colleagues that he had taken the Town player off his shot. That was quite probable.

The Southend goal-keeper made good saves when the Town attacked fiercely again, and then Southend made a strong effort through their left wing, but Hicks was too slow, and the Town were soon busy again. Just over a quarter of an hour remained for play when Neal sent the ball well forward to Jim Thompson. The latter passed nicely to ROBINSON, who went a few yards and then.

FROM AN AWKWARD ANGLE.

shot hard past Hayes for the second goal.

There was little excitement after this, and the Town retired comfortable winners of an uncomfortable game. Mingay was safe; his backs were as reliable as ever, both playing strong football, and not a foul was given against either. The middle men were not so successful as a line. Millar played grandly and his opposing wing had little scope. Rennie was much better in his feeding and did very well, but Neal, facing the cleverest winger on view, was not happy at all. Probably he felt the strain of the previous day. The forwards have been referred to. Norman Thomson was a lot better, and gave nice passes to Moffat and Jim Thompson. The former was rather patchy, but when he parted with the ball at the right time, brought

A LOT OF DANGER.

Jim Thompson hustled and harried the backs, but was slow in getting off the mark, and not in shooting form. Agnew remained consistent, hard-working, fearless, and unselfish, and Robinson had plenty of opportunity to show his best. He was lacking confidence in the first half, but improved, and gave the Southend defenders a hard time.

Of the visitors the defence was best. Hayes is still a good goalkeeper, and his backs were full of vigour and determination. Bell was the cooler, and did fine work, but Sayles is by no means a back number. The middle men were moderate, and the only forward with pretensions to skill was Smith, who was always a dangerous customer, and never wasted a ball.

The attendance was far below what it appeared to be, for on the official reckoning it fell short of 7,500.

LUTON WIN BOTH HOME GAMES.

Defeat at Charlton.

(By "CRUSADER.")

At Luton on Good Friday:—

LUTON TOWN	1
CHARLTON ATHLETIC	0

Scorer: MILLER.

LUTON. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Miller, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Moffat.

CHARLTON. — Bailey; Smith, Semple; Paterson, Armitage, Steele; Godfrey, Tricker, Biswell, Rankin, Hawkins. Referee.—Mr. E. G. Rudd, London.

At Luton on Saturday:—

LUTON TOWN	2
SOUTHEND UNITED	0

Scorers: NORMAN THOMSON and ROBINSON. Jas. Thompson missed from a penalty kick.

LUTON. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Robinson.

SOUTHEND.—Hayes; Bell, Sayles; Jewhurst, O'Rawe, Andrews; Johnson, Craver, Hicks, Donovan, Smith. Referee: Mr. J. Kelley, London.

At Charlton on Monday:—

CHARLTON ATHLETIC	2
LUTON TOWN	1

Scorers: TRICKER and HEROD (penalty) for Charlton. DENNIS (penalty) for Luton.

CHARLTON. — Bailey; Smith, Herod; Paterson, Armitage, Currie; Godfrey, Biswell, Tricker, Rankin, Hawkins.

LUTON. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis. Referee.—Mr. E. G. Rudd, London.

To be quite frank the football served up during the holidays was far from satisfactory as a spectacle. In the game with Southend and the match at Charlton, the play was not only as unscientific as on Friday, but it was not conducted in the best of spirit, and there were many fouls and much bickering in both games. On Friday the standard of play was poor, but it was less unpleasant than in the other games. Undoubtedly the conditions had much to do with the paucity of good football, for the grounds were very hard and the ball light in each match, while on Friday the breeze was very troublesome and upset the calculations of the players.

From a strictly partisan aspect Luton deserved their two victories, and they

SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER

at Charlton, for several good opportunities were missed. The defence was up to the average form in all three games, but the play of the half-backs lacked in virility and in feeding of the forwards, many attacks being frustrated simply because there was no supporting element when the forwards had been temporarily checked. Mingay, who superseded Purdy in goal on Good Friday, more than justified the confidence he received, but in no match had he as much work as the other keeper. He was agile, confident, and his anticipation was always good, and on this form he will be difficult to displace. The backs have done well as usual. Till shone in the first two games, and in the first half at Charlton, but in the second half of the third game he was not so happy. Graham continues to improve, and he

WON GOLDEN OPINIONS

for his fine display at Charlton.

Neal did not touch his best in either game at home, but was very much better in the third. Rennie is gradually benefiting by experience, and although his form is not consistent from hour to hour, and he is not yet a good spoiler, he has earned his place, and should develop into a class pivot. Millar has been the most consistent of the three, and he is now playing better than ever he did. As a line, however, they do not take sufficient practical interest in the attack, for in each of the holiday games there has often been a large gap between forwards and halves, with the consequence that pressure has not been sustained as well as it was in the games early this year.

Owing to the illness of Dennis a change was made for the Friday game, Miller coming in at outside right and Moffat crossing over to the left wing. Many blamed the former for

A POOR SHOW,

but, truth to tell, he did not meet with the support he deserved. He got few passes, for all the forwards were off colour. He was dropped on Saturday, Moffat returning to the right wing and Robinson making his first appearance with the first eleven. He was lacking confidence in the early stages, but in the second half he put up a very good game, and, as Miller had done the day before, he scored. Norman Thomson gave a better display on Saturday and registered a very fine goal. His constructive work was very clever, and Jim Thompson should have had several goals to his credit. The centre-forward was off song in the matter of shooting, but his huge strength and enthusiasm are of vital

welfare to the team. Agnew was a whole-hearted worker in every match. He

KEEPS GOING

from start to finish, and is much more robust than his appearance would suggest. Dennis has not had a more effective partner. The last-named returned to the extreme left for the game on Monday, and he did some very good work, though by no means so well in health as he might have been.

There is urgent need for a good coach for the forwards. Like the rest of the side they prefer heavy grounds, but at this period hard grounds are the rule rather than the exception, and tactics should be framed accordingly.

The game with Charlton Athletic on Good Friday was curious, inasmuch as there were not a few supporters who were disposed to think that the Town were lucky to win. Just how far they would have been unlucky had they lost I could not estimate, for they had more than three-fourths of the game. One is apt, when forwards are weak in front of goal, however much they may attack, to discount the superiority in mid-field. None could dispute the fact that the Town were attacking for nearly the whole of the first half, and that in the second, when Charlton had the advantage of the breeze, the balance of play still remained with the home side.

The only goal of the match came from Miller, but if the honour of scoring belonged to him the credit was shared. Till took a free-kick for a foul by Armitage on Millar, and the ball sailed beautifully into the goal-mouth. Three or four players went for it, and Jim Thompson headed against the bar, whence it fell to the feet of MILLER, who had simply to tap it into the net. The second half was then wearing away, and Charlton made desperate efforts to get level, but they were frustrated.

The standard of play was very low, but undoubtedly the goalkeeping of Bailey saved Charlton from a heavy defeat. In the first half he was invincible, and though he was lucky at times, he showed good anticipation, and was resourceful and agile, with safe hands.

Southend United did not enhance their reputation at Luton on Saturday, for they were often unscrupulous in their methods, and with a stronger official they would have experienced serious trouble. The play of the Town was a lot better than against Charlton, and with a little more accuracy in front of goal they must have run up a good score, for there were strenuous times for the Southend defence. Moreover, Jim Thompson failed to score from a penalty kick in the second half, and the shooting all round left a lot to be desired.

A goal was scored in each half, and each well deserved the plaudits of the crowd. The first came when Moffat took a wide pass from Agnew, and from the line he passed back perfectly to Norman THOMSON, who was coming up at a run, and that player slammed the ball into the goal at a terrific pace. The second goal came from ROBINSON, and in some respects it was similar to the first. A good pass up the middle by Neal was accepted by Jim Thompson, who made ground before sending along the carpet a splendid pass to the left winger, who ran in to beat Hayes with a swerving shot just inside the upright.

At Charlton on Monday the Town were unfortunate to lose, as a bad mistake by a linesman gave the home side a penalty kick from which they scored. Play was on the vigorous side throughout, but

THE ILL-FEELING GOT WORSE

after the interval, and there were several bad fouls. Tricker scored the only goal of the first half with a fine shot following a free kick, but the Town missed far easier openings, one by Jim Thompson in the first minute being an extraordinary failure right in front of goal with only the goalkeeper to beat. The penalty kick was given against Graham in the second half. Hawkins got clean away after a corner kick at the Luton end, and had not reached the penalty area when he was tripped by Graham. He did not fall, but went on. Mingay, however, picked up the ball almost off the forward's foot, and the latter collided with the goalkeeper and went down. Instantly the crowd appealed for

A PENALTY KICK

for the offence committed by Graham, and although the whistle had not been blown, the referee went over and consulted a linesman, with the result that Herod scored from the spot kick.

The Town's goal came from a penalty kick, too. During a hot attack Norman Thomson was roughly charged in the back by Herod when almost under the bar. Bailey came out of his goal a little way and stopped Dennis' shot, but the kick had to be re-taken, and Dennis did not give the goalkeeper any chance to save the next shot. The exchanges generally were even, but in the last minute Dennis hit the bar with a fine shot from the most acute angle possible.