

LUTON'S PLUCK.

Unsatisfactory Goal Defeats Them at Plymouth.

Luton Town put up a grand fight at Plymouth, and if we can place any sort of reliance upon the reports to hand it is clear that they were unfortunate to lose by the odd goal of seven. There is no doubt in my mind that to take the long railway journey on Saturday morning does affect the players, for it usually happens that Plymouth put on a commanding lead in the early stages. It was so on Saturday, and it was too much to expect that the Town could recover from a deficit of two goals, which was the margin against them at the end of seven minutes' play. Of course, when one goes into this matter it must be borne in mind that hotel and travelling expenses are considerably heavier when the journey is made on Friday, and in the state of the Town's finances every pound is a consideration. From the playing aspect alone, however, six hours' travelling does not conduce to the agility that is necessary.

"Devonis" says that the Town goal fell within three minutes of the start. FORBES, receiving a pass midway between the centre and the penalty area, made two or three feints and then suddenly let drive to beat Mingay all ends up. There was a brief and ineffective skirmish by Luton, and then the Argyle came down again, and Leslie's clever footwork tied up the Luton defence. A fine pass gave COCK a chance, of which he took full advantage. The home backs and Craig were harassed persistently. Craig saved at full length, while a grand shot from Agnew skimmed the bar. Twenty minutes had passed when the ball was swung over from the Luton right, and DENNIS, meeting it on the run, scored with a terrific shot. The Argyle forwards went straight down, and from a scramble FORBES shot through a crowd of players to register the third goal. The spectators had another thrill immediately, for the Luton forwards dashed away, and before Craig knew what was happening, AGNEW had beaten him with a fine drive. Both sides maintained their zeal to half-time.

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On the resumption Mingay saved finely, and Craig brought off a brilliant save from Moffat. The home defence was sorely taxed, and then the Argyle forwards attacked again. A free kick well out was received by COCK, who went ahead and cleared opposition. Mingay ran out, but the Argyle leader tapped the ball past him. Graham ran across and kicked the ball into touch. There was consternation among the Luton players when the referee blew for a goal. In spite of protests he declined to consult the linesmen or to alter his decision. This was Plymouth's hundredth goal, and was received with tremendous cheering. Luton put more fight into their efforts, and the Plymouth goal underwent exciting scenes. Barely 20 minutes of this half had elapsed when the Luton forwards swept down, and Norman THOMSON dodged Titmus and scored a great goal.

The rest of the game was in Luton's favour, but they could not score again, and the Argyle retired with the points.

For the home side Russell was the outstanding figure in the defence, the halves could not hold the Luton forwards, and Russell and Cock were mainly responsible for the success.

Luton impressed as one of the finest sides seen at Home Park this season. Their defence was shaky in the early stages, but that was excusable in view of the long journey. Mingay was a fine goalkeeper, and his backs played strong, courageous football, both kicking and tackling spiritedly. The halves were resolute, and they fed their forwards finely. Rennie was sometimes at a loss in dealing with the three clever inside men, but he compensated by the efficient way in which he fed his forwards. Neal found his opposition too clever at times, but he hustled in, and much of the clever work of his right wing was due to his nice passes, while Millar was a grand worker, and got the better of Matthews and Forbes more often than not when he had got into his stride. The forwards were a live and penetrative force. The strength of James Thompson was a powerful factor. Over and over again he upset the equanimity of Russell and Titmus, and although he did not score, he paved the way for clever wing work by sending the ball out accurately to his flanks. Norman Thomson struck one as being a real artist with the ball, and he made Moffat a clever raider, but the wing man seemed selfish and failed to get the ball over several times after he had made a lot of headway and drawn the defence. Dennis and Agnew were a bright pair, and their combination elicited general praise. The latter was a magnificent worker, and times out of number he gave beautiful passes to Dennis, who made good use of them.

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PLYMOUTH.—Craig; Russell, Titmus; Preston, McKenzie, Hardie; Matthews, Forbes, Cock, Leslie, Black.

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

Referee: Mr. E. E. Small, Bristol.