

GRIM GAME AT LUTON.

Lack of Sportsmanship in Luton's 'Final Game.

"LIONS" TAKE A POINT.

(By "CRUSADER").

LUTON-TOWN 2
MILLWALL ATHLETIC 2

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

MILLWALL.—Fox; Fort, Hill; Amos, Collins, Graham; Chance, Moule; R. C. Dellow, Burley, Gore.

Referee.—H. E. Gray, Forest Gate.

For the second time since the War the meeting of Luton Town and Millwall has evoked regrettable scenes on the 'Awn ground. As a rule the Luton spectators are well-behaved, and it takes a good deal to disturb them to the extent of their agitation on Saturday. The demonstrations against the referee and one or two of the Millwall players were excusable during the course of the game, but scenes such as followed the end of the game do no good either to the players, the club, or the game itself. There was an incident in the second half that called for very strong condemnation.

SUMMONEE THREE

A large piece of clinker, it was alleged, and this struck Millar, the Town left-half. Possibly it was meant for Fort or Amos, the two roughest players we have had at Luton for some time. I doubt if it were meant for the referee, for he was usually plodding about the middle of the field, too far in the rear of the play. Whatever the intent, it was a most foolish action to throw at any individual. That Mr. Gray was to blame for the foul play is to a certain degree a just allegation, for he should have taken stronger measures with the Millwall wing halves and Fort in the first half-hour of the game. Their methods of stopping the Town forwards were open to severest censure, and many of the most sedate and phlegmatic folk in the stand were roused to an angry state by the manner in which these three Millwall players behaved.

It was all very regrettable, for in the early stages there were promises of a really great game to finish up the season. We could well understand why Millwall had such a fine run of success until a fortnight ago, but before the second half was very old we could just as well understand that with a strong referee they

WOULD LOSE MATCHES

because of the penalties they incurred. The whistle was heard more often than in the average game, but there were twice as many offences committed as were recognized by the official.

Millwall found a very different side from the opposition they encountered when they beat the Town by seven goals clear in December, and

TILL SIGNS AGAIN.

In spite of many rumours to the contrary, Joe Till, Luton Town's clever left back, signed for the club on Saturday evening. This is Till's third season, and he has been playing as well this season as ever.

they did not like the change. The Town should have won, for the sharing of the spoils was due to blunders in defence. The Millwall rearguard made no such errors, but the Town would have had no more than their just due had they been awarded two or three penalty-kicks. When they had found their feet, as far as was possible on the treacherous ground, they were

OFTEN DANGEROUS.

and in one of the earliest solo efforts by Jim Thompson he was brought down in a fashion which deserved not only a penalty-kick, but a severe warning to the culprit. Mr. Gray raised his whistle and that was all. If such an offence could be committed with impunity it was no wonder that Millwall went on to take advantage of the lenity of the official, and it was not until late in the game that matters quietened down. They did so, in my view, for the simple reason that the Town players began reprisals. Graham had seen Fort knock out Dennis two or three times, and so he knocked out Gore. Then Amos, who was by far

THE WORST OFFENDER.

turned his attention to his old clubmate, Jim Thompson, but the Town centre-forward was too quick for him, and in the clash the Millwall half-back got a rap that he will remember for some little time.

One cannot attempt to justify reprisals even under such suffering as some of the Town players endured in this game, but the fact remained that when Amos got his deserts the play became more respectable. When the Town visited Millwall Mr. Gray's indecision and

LACK OF FIRMNESS

spoil the game, and it was the same on Saturday. Had he given a definite warning to those players first guilty of misconduct, I am sure we should have witnessed a very fine game.

There was not much to choose between the teams. On the amount of sustained pressure the Town should have won, for they missed a number of chances in the first half, and again in the closing stages. Millwall's best was the quarter of an hour after the change of ends, and they should have made certain of the result in that time. Still, there was

LITTLE IN IT

the game through.

The first goal came as the result of a sample of Norman Thomson's footwork, for he outwitted the two internationals, Graham and Hill, and then sent the ball through, and Jim THOMPSON, though forced to the left wing, had a fairly easy task to shoot into the net away from the advancing Fox. There were prospects of further successes afterwards, but they did not materialise, and then Millwall got the equaliser. There

was a long kick forward and Graham and Burley each tried to head the ball, which slipped off the Town back's head and went to GORE. The winger kept the ball under control nicely and went

ALMOST UNDER THE BAR

before shooting to the left of Mingay, and the ball struck the upright and glanced into the net.

Millwall had the better of the exchanges after crossing over, and many times they were dangerous, several opportunities being missed. Suddenly there was a breakaway by Luton, and following good play on the left wing the ball was centred, and Jim Thompson and Norman Thomson rushed to meet it. The former missed it, but the latter headed a clever goal. Mr. Gray was on the spot, perhaps because play had been in that area for a few seconds during a scuffle on the left wing, and he unhesitatingly

POINTED TO THE CENTRE.

The ball was taken down and placed on the spot, but the Millwall players noticed a linesman flagging vigorously near the corner flag, and they almost carried the referee to him, with the result that he gave a free-kick in the goal-mouth. The Luton players tried to get him to consult the other linesman, but he refused to do so. If the referee were satisfied that it was a legitimate goal he should not have reversed his decision, but if he had an idea that the linesman had the better position he should have obtained the view of the other linesman. One could not blame the linesman who flagged, but what the offence was it would puzzle anyone to know.

This decision was

A TONIC TO THE "LIONS"

and they went to the attack. The Town defence was none too sure, and when Mingay misfielded a ball and placed it at the feet of BURLEY for that player to register a gift goal, Luton seemed fated to suffer their second defeat at home. Nevertheless, they attacked hotly time and time again, and once Moffat headed against the upright, while a great shot from Millar was turned on to the bar by Fox—a grand save, for the ball went behind. The referee had his watch out when Luton made a desperate rally in the closing stages. Three corners were forced in as many minutes, and each of the first two nearly brought

THE DOWNFALL

of the Millwall goal. The third did so. Dennis placed the flag-kick perfectly and Jim THOMPSON headed a fine goal amidst enthusiastic scenes.

For the Town the defence was not at its best. Mingay made several fine saves, but two or three times the greasy ball seemed to beat him. Graham and Till put up a valiant resistance, but the dashing Millwall forwards occasionally busted them off their game. The halves were fairly good. Millar had a very hard afternoon, but he kept his end up as usual, and Rennie played as well as recently, but there seemed

LACK OF "PUNCH" SOMEWHERE.

Norman Thomson played delightful football, and Moffat might have done better with some of the passes he received. Jim Thompson appreciated the assistance he received from the artful colleague on his right, and the sterling work of Agnew on his left, and Dennis played as well as Millwall would let him, but he was badly fouled many times.

Fox was a splendid goalkeeper, and Hill showed that he is a first-class man. He was the best defender seen at Luton this season, and with the exception of one indiscretion in the first half, he was

A GENUINE SPORTSMAN.

Amos would have been the most skilful half-back on view had he behaved according to the book, for he made many masterly moves. The Millwall forwards were led by R. C. Dellow, the amateur centre-forward of Barking, but while a great trier, he did not get many shooting chances, which was perhaps as well for the Town. His wings played splendidly, especially the extremes.

There was the best gate this season, I believe. When the teams took the field there were few over 6,000 spectators present, but the attendance reached the very nice figure of 9,500.

MOFFAT TRANSFERRED.

For the third week in succession an important official of the Everton club watched Luton Town play on Saturday. The object of his interest was divulged after the game with Millwall, when Harold Moffat, the popular little outside right, was transferred to Everton.

Moffat, who is one of the smallest players in League football, signed for Luton Town 12 months ago. He is a native of Camerton, a village near Workington, Cumberland, and it was from the Workington club that he was transferred to The Arsenal in 1923. After a season with The Arsenal Reserves, he went to Guildford United, but the London club still retained an interest in him. He played so well for Guildford that Luton took a fancy to him, and when he was free last May he signed for the Town club. Occasionally he deputised for the more experienced James Miller at the beginning of the season, but on December 12th he was promoted to the first eleven, and he has held his place ever since, moving to the outside left position for one match only, and that on Good Friday, when Dennis was unfit. He has improved considerably, and his speed, trickery and grit have been of great value, and made him deservedly popular with the Town supporters.

Moffat is only 23, and his career with the famous Liverpool club will be followed with interest by his many friends in Luton. The amount of the transfer fee has not been disclosed, but, in the non-committal words of the Town Club Secretary, Mr. Charles Green, it will help to pay summer wages.