

MANY CHANCES MISSED.

Why Luton Only Shared With Swindon.

POINT DROPPED AT HOME.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 1
SWINDON TOWN 1

LUTON.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Richards, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Clark.

SWINDON.—Nash, Dickenson, Weston; Brown, Bew, Archer; Eddleston, Wall, Morris, Petrie, Thom.

Referee.—A. Richards, Bristol.

Luton Town's first failure dates from Saturday last. It was a failure, though not a defeat. Failure to win when expected; failure because opportunities were not seized, and the team that does not accept chances cannot succeed. What William Barr will do or say I have no idea. Our mutual friend, Billy Lawson, used to tell me that it was no part of his job to teach football; he simply had to get the players fit. None can gainsay that. Billy got them as fit as any man could, and some he handled and, to all appearances,

TURNED OUT SOUND.

when they left the club were very soon weltering in regret because there was no Billy Lawson to patch them up.

Billy Barr is gifted that way. He turns 'em out fit, too, and from what we saw last season, and what has been noticed already this, the Town players can be relied upon to finish as strongly as any side. Of those who have read these reports consistently many have remarked upon the insistence for improved marksmanship. It reflects the school in which I was reared, and the first principles were, in defence to get the ball away as quickly as possible; in attack to acquire accurate shooting ability. For two or three seasons the defensive principle has not been observed so well as it might, but this season there is no ground for complaint as far as the backs are concerned. In the matter of attack there is, and until the forwards recognise

THE VITAL NECESSITY

of first time and accurate shooting, taking the ball as it comes and shooting on the run, there will always be grave danger of losing.

The match at Bristol was won because the shooting was good; the second match found the quality less pronounced; the third saw a point lost for the lack of it.

Luton Town should have headed their section of the League on Saturday night, but failed because the inside forwards could not locate the net. The defenders did their part well enough to satisfy the keenest of critics, but the forwards were at fault, and none more so than James Thompson, whom we hope will be somewhere near the head of the goal-scorers at the end of this season. He still has plenty of time to do it, and, if the other forwards continue to make openings as they did on Saturday, has only to find the right spot to get there.

We saw

A SPLENDID STRUGGLE.

with Swindon playing skillful football. As with the Brentford side, the thrills Swindon gave us were in large measure due to the leadership of the front line. A less sagacious centre-forward on their side would have meant far less praise for the "Railwaymen" than they received. Morris was the chief point of danger, and it was well for Luton that Graham and Till recognised this. His thrustfulness, fine passing to the wings, and positioning for the return pass were important features in Swindon's many ventures. How Mingay frustrated several assaults only the goalkeeper knows, but he has never had more hearty applause since he figured in the Town's jersey. Moreover, he got the ball away well, and none could blame him for being beaten by MORRIS'S delightful shot just under the half-hour.

Yet there were more palpitating moments at the Swindon end, and Nash made even more

WONDERFUL SAVES.

Once in the first half it appeared as though Jim Thompson could not fail to score, but Nash came out and took the ball away as coolly as could be imagined. Nevertheless, there were many simple openings missed, and instead of a winning lead for Luton at the interval, the score read:—

SWINDON TOWN 1
LUTON TOWN 0

Luton began the second half in most promising fashion, and Nash quickly made very fine saves, but the "Railwaymen" set up another strong raid, and Mingay again woke up the crowd by his deft parrying of two or three shots at close quarters. Then came the equaliser. A couple of corner-kicks were

THE REWARD OF ENTERPRISE

by the Town wingers, and from the second, nicely placed by Clark, JIM THOMPSON managed to divert the ball past Nash. It was a neat header.

Swindon seemed to go into it harder than ever, and came within an ace of restoring the lead. Mingay was again prominent, and made extraordinary saves during a lively five minutes at the Town end. Thereafter the Town should have made the game quite safe. Frequently Jim Thompson got right through, but could not get the right direction on his shots. When he did, the ball went within easy reach of Nash. Several times the ball went across the goal-mouth, but there was none up to give it the right touch, though once Pointon, almost under the bar, stabbed it to curl over the top. Now and then the visitors made a quick raid, and Thom gave a lot of trouble to Richards, but the best chances fell to the Town. The way they were

FRITTERED AWAY

was very disappointing to the spectators, who began to leave the field ten minutes from the end, convinced that the winning goal would not

come. They were correct in their ideas, for the Swindon defence triumphed.

Probably none was more disappointed than the Town centre-forward, and I can well believe that he will put in some hard shooting practice this week. He needs it. Still, I expect some other club will go through the mill for it, and if Exeter are the victims, so much the better. Norman Thomson was again the brightest of the line, but seemed to fall away a lot in the second half. Agnew worked as hard as ever, without so much success as usual. Pointon was patchy, but centred nicely; Clark was as good as any of the line, and better than most.

In the middle line, Millar was quite the outstanding figure. He is playing as well as ever he played last season—better, I think. In attack he was

A BIG FACTOR.

and his defensive work, especially his speedy recovery, was invaluable. I don't know what Rennie had been told about Morris, but he had not been told enough to keep that worthy in subjection, and yet he did not leave him very far. The centre-half's clever kicking was useful, and now and then he put out well to his wings, but his general work was not so good. Neither was that of Richards. The Town captain found Thom a pretty warm handful, and seemed unduly bothered. I don't expect to see the best of Richards just yet, however. He wants the heavy grounds. May they come soon.

Graham was again the star defender, and one can hardly praise his judgment too much. With head and feet he was accurate and sure in kicking, and his speed and clever tackling stamp him as a great back. Till was less conspicuous, but just as useful, for his display was marked

BY INTELLIGENCE AND SKILL.

As a pair they did all that could be reasonably expected. I have referred to Mingay. If a trifle lucky, he kept goal finely and saved the game many times.

Swindon played with better understanding than the Town, especially as between forwards and halves, and were only held by more enthusiasm and earnestness. Nash had more luck than Mingay, but is still a fine goalkeeper. Dickenson and Weston were reliable, and Brown a splendid half. Bew and Archer worked hard without being so clever. Morris made the forward line, and speedily found the wisdom of feeding Thom, a good winger. The line moved with dash and precision, and kept the ball on the carpet better than the Town, but did not get so many chances of scoring, fortunately for Mingay.

The attendance exceeded 11,500, a larger crowd than was seen on the ground for any match last season. I hope for nothing worse.

NORTH HERTS. COURSING.

At the annual meeting of the North Herts Coursing Club, at the "Horse and Jockey," Hitchin, the accounts, presented by Mr. H. Wright, the secretary, disclosed a balance in hand of £61 17s. 2d., the balance at the beginning of the year being £22 11s. 4d. The first meeting of the season will be at Kelsall Heath on October 14th, and there is a promise of a two days' meet near Hitchin on December 8th and 9th. The following officials were elected:—Chairman, Mr. J. C. Payne; treasurer, Mr. Thomas Brooker, sen.; secretary, Mr. Harry Wright; assistant secretary, Mr. Percy Webb; slipper, Mr. J. Gates; slip steward, Mr. F. Holland; play steward, Mr. Percy Webb; gate stewards, Messrs. J. L. Mayger, F. Furr, and W. S. Furr; field stewards, Messrs. W. Smith, H. S. James, E. Farrin, O. Day, T. Bray, and L. V. Bolton.

NORTH HERTS. HOCKEY.

The North Herts Hockey Club, whose activities last season were somewhat hampered by ground difficulties, expect a successful season this year on their new ground in Cashio-lane, Letchworth. Last year they had to relinquish their Hitchin ground for building purposes, following which they played in a field at Offley, lent by Mr. Dan Hall. The first team captain is Mr. L. J. Roskams, and his deputy is Mr. G. N. Bristow. The honorary secretarial duties are to be undertaken by Mr. C. W. Sykes, The Leys, Gernon-road, Letchworth. Practice games are fixed for next Saturday, September 18th and the 25th, the programme opening on the Cashio-road ground on October 2nd, against Queen's Works, Bedford.

TRIP TO SKEGNESS.

There was a great exodus from Hitchin on Wednesday—early closing day—for the L. & N.E. popular half-day excursion to Skegness. Nearly 600 passengers made the journey at 11 a.m., and, leaving Skegness at 8 o'clock, arrived home at 11 o'clock.

FOOTBALL.
ON THE TOWN GROUND.
WEDNESDAY, Sept. 8th
SOUTHERN LEAGUE.
LUTON RESERVES
v.
SOUTHAMPTON
RESERVES
Kick off 5.30 p.m.