

NINE POINTS OF A POSSIBLE TEN.

TWO MORE VICTORIES.

(By CRUSADER).

In the course of their long career Luton Town have achieved many unusual things, but it must be many years since they began a season by taking nine of a possible ten League points in first team matches, and it is most unlikely that they have ever, as a Club, played ten games without defeat at the opening of a season. This is written before the Reserves' game with Millwall Reserves, but up to yesterday the records were :—

	P	W	L	D	F	A	P
1st team	5	4	0	1	9	4	9
2nd team	5	2	0	3	10	7	7

The effect of this wonderful beginning was to be seen on Monday night, when nearly 9,000 spectators saw the fourth victory of the first eleven scored at the expense of Northampton. Considering that the kick-off was at six o'clock this was most satisfactory. Could the clubs have relied upon the light lasting until eight o'clock, as it did, the kick-off might have been delayed until 6.15 or 6.20, and that would probably have brought the attendance to the 10,000 mark. These gates certainly justify beyond question the Monday night matches, and there should be well over five figures recorded again on Saturday, when Merthyr Town are due at Luton.

For the first time since the War Luton Town's first team have won their first two away games, and on each occasion they have overcome

DOUGHTY OPPONENTS.

Bristol Rovers were convinced that they had a promotion side, but Luton settled that idea. Exeter City made no secret of their conviction that they had the best side that has worn the Club's colours since the War. They had some justification for it, but Luton conquered them at St. James' Park.

This excellent start does not mean that Luton Town have a championship side. We have yet to see a better team in their division, but there are lacking several essentials for a continuance of success. That must be quite clearly understood. At the present time neither the middle line nor the attack is wholly satisfactory, and the most pleasing feature has been the success of the defence. In the first five games last season Luton scored 11 goals against 9; this season there is an appreciable improvement in 9 goals against 4. In the corresponding games of last season Luton scored 15 goals, against 9. If the defence can maintain its present high standard until there are heavy grounds, which, I hope, will mean the return to last year's form of the halves and forwards, then we may begin to think of promotion. Neither of these departments has properly settled down to business, and the best display as a team was given at Bristol.

It is in marksmanship that the team is deficient at present, but we should not overlook the fact that last season brought an amendment of the offside rule, and defenders were not accustomed to it. A glance at the records will show what

A BIG DIFFERENCE

this makes. The five teams we have met this season, in the corresponding matches last season, scored 57 goals, against 55; this year 50, against 40. That shows undeniable improvement in defence. A few years ago the fraction of a goal decided the Championship of a Division, and so the importance of this change in Luton's defence cannot be estimated.

At Exeter Luton owed a great deal to Mingay and his backs. In the first half the "Grecians," playing fine, fast football, assailed the Town goal time after time during the first half-hour, and Mingay's skill evoked the applause of the spectators. Two of his saves bordered on the miraculous, and he was cheered to the echo. The home goal had exciting periods, but they were not so frequent or so thrilling as those at Mingay's end. The first goal came from a penalty kick awarded against Charlton for handling a centre by Pointon. GRAHAM scored. Curiously enough, Graham committed the offence that brought Exeter's equalising goal from CHARLTON, also a penalty kick.

In the second half the Town had got over the discomfort of a long train journey, and the struggle was more even. Mingay and his backs again did fine work, though not so severely pressed as before. As the game proceeded the Town gradually took command, and JIM THOMPSON netted

THE WINNING GOAL

after Richards had hit the bar with a free kick. Luton were all over the "Grecians" in the closing stages of a game that was much too vigorous, and in which there were incidents that called for severe punishment by the referee.

The end came with the Town victorious.