

"COBBLERS" WHACKED AGAIN.

Luton Town's Victory Last Night.

AN UNPLEASANT GAME.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Luton.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Richards, Bennie, Millar; Pointon, Thomson, Thompson, Woods, Clark.

Northampton.—Hammond, Watson, Yorke, Allen, Brett, Tresadern; Shaw, Robinson, Cockie, Hoten, Edwards.

Referee.—W. E. Greenland, London.

Luton Town maintained their unbeaten certificate last night, and were value for a better win. If the result were the only thing to be considered, every Luton supporter could be satisfied, but from a football point of view the game was a striking example of the deterioration that has taken place since the war. What old players think might not be printable for, while admitting that rough and dirty play was not unknown before the war, it was not so glaring. Perhaps that was because referees of other days were different. They could not be pulled about and badgered into discussions on decisions. They would never have allowed what Mr. Greenland did last night. Very soon after the start, the tactics of some of the "Cobblers" were not relished by the crowd, and matters

STEADILY GREW WORSE.

until, in the second half, he called the lot together and, apparently, administered a caution. Within a minute Clark was swept off his feet in a manner that called for condign punishment, but the referee merely gave a free kick. He might as well have omitted his lecture.

Why there should be such exhibitions when Luton and Northampton meet, I do not know. We do not get them nearly so bad with White. It is good that the mischief is restricted to a few players. That dirty work was unnecessary, was quite clear from the manner in which the game opened. We saw brisk play, but from the moment Hoten fouled Richards and the latter showed a disposition to retaliate, the referee began to lose control. Of course, sections of the crowd wanted Hoten's blood. That

DID NOT IMPROVE MATTERS.

and as he was not inclined to take much notice, the whistle was all too frequently in use.

Luton were much the better side, but there was a robust earnestness about the "Cobblers" defence that kept the score down.

When the players concentrated upon playing the ball, we saw good shooting, and Hammond and Mingay each made one save. The "Cobblers" goal had several narrow escapes, but Hammond was a clever keeper, and played as though none had yet thought of the shot that could beat him. He must have helped over the bar half a dozen good scoring shots in the first half, while the framework was twice struck. Yorke sent the ball over his own cross-bar once, when Hammond came out of goal. Mingay put

MUCH HAIR ON END

when he ran out twice and fisted away, and had barely resumed his right place again when called upon to take care of grand shots from Allen and Robinson. The first goal came at the end of 37 minutes. Jim Thompson was going through when he went sprawling full length, and there was a loud appeal for a penalty kick. The referee rightly ignored this. The ball had not travelled many paces, however, before Yorke hooked Norman Thomson's legs from under him. There was no question about the penalty kick in this case. GRAHAM took the chance and potted a powerful drive. Before he could do so, however, there was a little scrimmage on the 18 yards line. The Northampton players had up in the place Graham wanted for his run, and there was some

PUSHING AND SHOVING

before he could take the kick unimpeded. This obstruction is an offence, and the referee should not have left the Town players to determine the right of the marksmen to a free run. That freedom has been established by the F.A. There was plenty of incident up to the interval, which came with the score:

LUTON.....1

NORTHAMPTON.....NIL

There was no change in the fashion of play when the game was resumed. Hoten was penalised three times inside ten minutes, and each time the crowd yelled for his dismissal. There were never exciting incidents in the goal areas during the first twenty minutes, but the Town did a lot of pressing, and many long kicks came their way.

WITHOUT REWARD.

Hammond was afterwards the central figure in exciting tussles, and made many

splendid saves. His backs were good at barring progress, especially Watson, and while the kicking was none too accurate, it was hefty, and sent the ball long distances.

Jim Thompson tried his utmost to force a passage, but was usually overpowered, and seldom allowed to shoot. At the other end the Town backs were equally keen, but relied less on strength to frustrate attacks, and were not penalised nearly so often. It was after violent exchanges that the referee called the players together and talked. Clark had been twice laid out, Hoten and Rennie had exchanged the touch of leather, and all the halves were as much inclined to play the man as to play the ball.

The Town attacked severely after this, and eventually

SUCCESS CAME.

Jim Thompson gave a beautiful pass to Pointon, and the winger swung in a centre that fell among a rack of players against the near post. Hammond dashed out to fist away, but the ball fell a trifle short, and NORMAN THOMSON, coming up with a rush, carried it on his toes into the net. Hammond was hurt, but soon resumed, and was tested again, but to all intents and purposes the game was won.

Perhaps the most pleasing feature about the match, from the Luton standpoint, was the improvement of half-back. On the whole this was the best game they have played for a long time. Still, something lacking in feeding of forwards. They were fast and resolute in defence, and got through a great amount of

HARD WORK.

Richards certainly did better than in any previous game, and it looks as though he were coming right back to his best. Behind these three Graham and Till put up a grand defence, and Mingay, while two or three times taking undue risks, made grand saves. Two recoveries of his in the first half "brought down the house." The inclusion of Woods at inside left, was not popular by any means, but when the game was over, he received as much kudos as any other player. If it were football, here and unadulterated all the time, Woods would hold his own with the best, but it is not. While often beating the opposition by quick thinking, he was not always quick enough to get his legs out of the way, and once he was brought down very badly. Norman Thomson was not allowed to do a lot of fancy work, and I think the reason he does

BETTER AWAY FROM HOME

is because he has a yard or two more in which to operate, for the Town ground is on the small side compared with some enclosures. Still, he did well, and Jim Thompson's heavy role was of inestimable value. He is not getting a lot of goals yet, but is a harassing leader at all times, and does much to maintain an attack. The wingers were better than on Saturday, both making ground and centring better.

For the "Cobblers," Hammond kept goal splendidly. He was not very severely tested with low shots, but seldom could have had a game in which so often called upon to display his skill in tipping the ball over the bar. Watson played one of his best games, kicking and tackling grandly. Yorke was wild by comparison. Brett put up

A RUGGED GAME

at centre-half, and both Allen and Tresadern were skilful at times. For Cockie I have great admiration. A fine, gentlemanly type of player, though not so prominent as last season, he was a great trier, and led the line well. The response was not good, except from Shaw, and if Walden is better than this youngster, then the Spurs have made a big mistake in letting the little man go. Hoten got into hot water, as usual. It is a great pity, for, off the field, he is one of the best of fellows, and on it he can play fine football. It is not ill-temper, but sheer mischievousness that brings him into trouble. Robinson was not allowed many chances of shooting, but otherwise played pretty well, and Edwards did much good work.

Mr. Greenland was altogether too lenient, but on the laws of the game, he lacked nothing.

There were nearly 9,000 spectators.

Luton Town supporters have another opportunity of showing their satisfaction