

LUTON LOSE AT SOUTHEND.

Goals That Were Easily Obtained.

(By "CRUSADER.")

SOUTHEND UNITED 2

LUTON TOWN 1

SOUTHEND.—Moore; French, Bell; Jewhurst, Purdy, Bayliss; Dennis, Brayshaw, Hick, Donovan, Smith.

LUTON.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Richards, Moir, Millar; Pointon, Thomson, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

Referee.—R. Steel, London.

Followers of football must have been puzzled to reconcile the various reports of the game at Southend-on-Sea on Saturday. In some of the papers it was made to appear as though the Town were a badly beaten side, without any sort of chance or hope of succeeding against a team that might be an International side before this season is over. Everything turns on the whim of the writer. Fortunately for the Luton supporters who were not able to make the journey, there were present about 500 from Luton. It would be too much to hope that the 500 thought as one man, but I am quite sure that everyone of the 500 would be disgusted with some of the absurd commentaries on the game.

Southend are

A USEFUL SIDE.

but, as a Harpenden native—now doing well at Southend—remarked at the interval, Luton were better at forward and in the rearguard, although two misunderstandings by the Town defenders had given the home side two goals that were decidedly lucky. In the first case, Southend's first goal came after their defence had a trying spell, for players stood aside to allow a simple header by DONOVAN to pass into the goal at a place where Mingay was not. The second goal came because Hicks was allowed a free course while the backs were waiting for each other to tackle him. Those were the "grand" goals we read about in some of the papers. The Town's goal came from something like forward combination, for Moir, Richards, Pointon and Norman Thompson each had a share in

THE CONSTRUCTIVE MOVEMENT.

and the final pass by the last-named left JIM THOMPSON with an easy opening, and his shot beat Moore all the way. Southend played good football in patches, but they never at any time during the game put up such fine work as was shown by the Town halves and forwards in the last fifteen minutes of the first half. The home goal escaped in miraculous fashion several times.

In the second half the Town were again the better side for ten minutes, then Southend for twenty minutes, and in the remaining period the Luton players deserved to equalise. Dennis hit the upright with a shot that beat the goalkeeper, and came running back across the goal-line. Spectators behind the goal thought it was

OVER THE LINE.

and the Town players appealed, but without effect, and then another hot assault just failed to level the scores.

In but one department could the home team claim any superiority, and that was at half-back, where Jewhurst and Purdy played brilliantly. They practically made the Southend team, and it was due chiefly to them that the two points remained with the home side. Moore kept goal well, and Bell was a fine back, while in the forward line Donovan played well, and Dennis was a hot handful.

The Town defence played the more skilful game, both Graham and Till tackling and kicking grandly, the latter being right at his best. It was a thousand pities that the misunderstandings enabled Southend to penetrate, for usually the Town backs were

WELL ON TOP.

Mingay kept out some good ones, and a save in each half merited a volume of applause. The middle line fell below the average. Moir, at centre-half, showed many good points, and after the game a tribute was paid to his ability by Bob Steel, the old inside forward of the 'Spurs, and one could hardly wish for anything better so far as attack were concerned. It was in recovery and the use of his weight that he did not wholly fill the requirements of the position, but players of that type are as rare as blackberries in March. Some of his feeding on the ground was very clever, and I am fairly certain it would pay to bring him out in that capacity. Richards,

STILL HANDICAPPED

by the hard ground, was not at his best until the second half, and much the same may be said of Millar, but the linking up with the forwards at times was really splendid, and I do not want to see big changes made.

Pointon came out of his shell to good purpose, and made good use of passes, both by his speed and middling. Dennis could have done more work, for he was the danger man in the closing stages. Woods and Norman Thomson each worked hard and cleverly, and Jim Thompson had a lot of useful passes, but he was too often crowded out when he wanted to get in a shot.

There is no need to grow discontented because of the defeat. It is very difficult to preserve an unbeaten record, and I am quite sure that when heavy grounds are the order then the Town team will do better than last year. So far there is the gain of a point on the matches played, and the prospects will be brighter still if the defence can hold out so well until the rains come.