

ANOTHER WIN.

GILLINGHAM GO DOWN AT LUTON.

Dennis Misses With Penalty Kick.

(By "CRUSADER").

LUTON TOWN 2
GILLINGHAM 1

LUTON.—Mingay; Graham, Till; Richards, Gordon, Millar; Clark, Thomson, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

GILLINGHAM.—Ferguson; Robertson, Bartley; Nichol, Rutherford, Ellis; Meston, Marshall, Amos, Arblaster, Foster.

Referee.—G. T. Gould, London.

When the whistle sounded the interval on Saturday most of us were glad of the "breather." I am quite sure the Town players were. They were then just about accustomed to the sharp and effective combination of the visitors, but wanted the pause to prepare for the next phase. Whereas Gillingham had shown a quality for which we were hardly prepared, especially in combination between half-backs and forwards, the Town relied upon the modern methods of quick rushes and fast following up. The better football was served up by the visitors for over half an hour, and on the balance of play scarcely deserved to be a goal down at the change of ends.

How different was the second half!

THE BETTER FOOTBALL

was shown by the Town inside forwards, and the visitors made comparatively few advances. Their forwards were dominated by the home backs, if not by the halves, and the middle men were just about tired out. True, they came again shortly before the end, after a goal had encouraged them, but the Town finished strongly as usual, and in the long run the spoils went to the side that played the more effective football for the longer time.

Some of the early movements of the Gillingham men were very fine indeed, the passing being remarkably accurate and well-timed, and the speed of the wing men—nearly always

BROUGHT INTO ACTION

at the right moment—made everybody sit up and take notice. Much of this good work came from the acumen of Rutherford, the Town's old centre-half, who was a purveyor of neat passes, and often opened out the game to advantage. It was well that the Town backs and Mingay were on their best behaviour during this period, and Till thoroughly deserved the ovation he got when leaving the field at the interval.

The visiting forwards were quick in their initiatory movements, but apt to over-finesse in front of goal, or they might well have had the lead. It was following one of their attacks that the ball was sent up the middle, and Harry Woods, after drawing opposition, sent through to Jim THOMPSON. The latter

FORGED AHEAD.

and although Rutherford almost got up to him, the Town centre-forward got into the penalty-area ere he let drive a beautiful low shot that travelled like a bullet into the farther corner of the goal, right away from Ferguson, and opened the Town's account.

Gillingham made desperate efforts to get level, and Mingay was often required during the next few minutes, but the Town gradually began to assert mastery, and wore down the opposition from this point to the end. The Gillingham goal had a series of escapes before the interval came with the score:—

LUTON 1
GILLINGHAM 0

There could be little cavil as to the better side after the re-start. Ferguson had more than thrice the amount of work that fell to Mingay, and right well he performed. His halves were faltering badly, and as the Town inside forwards were giving of their very best in the way of trickery and combination, a heavy burden fell upon the rearguard. Some good chances were missed before a dazzling movement by the three inside forwards gave Jim THOMPSON the chance to put on a second goal, Ferguson not having the slightest chance to intervene. For a long time the Town were attacking persistently, and several openings might have been turned to account. The visitors seemed

PRACTICALLY OUTPLAYED

at times, so hopelessly were their halves outwitted, but now and then the forwards took a turn, and it required the brilliance of Till to hold them in check. He was the man that most took the eye, for his interception and covering were magnificent, and over and over again he dropped the ball to the feet of his forwards.

We looked for another goal just before the thirtieth minute of the second half. Some bright play by the inside forwards left Norrie Thomson in possession, and he had tickled the ball past two men, and was almost under the bar when Ellis clipped his feet from under him, and the referee promptly awarded

A PENALTY-KICK.

Dennis was called up by the crowd, and came. To the amazement of everybody

he shot all along the ground, quite straight, and the ball struck Ferguson's foot and rose over the bar. It was Dennis' first penalty miss since he came to Luton.

Still, the game seemed safe, for the visitors were being well held, and there should have been additions to the Town's lead. In an effort by the visitors, Norman Thomson was held to have pushed an opponent about 25 yards out. Rutherford took the kick, and Gordon cleverly intercepted the shot with his foot at full stretch. RUTHERFORD got the ball again, and lobbed, rather than shot, over the heads of the defenders, and the ball passed into the net. Mingay was held to blame by some, but I am quite sure that he

NEVER SAW THE BALL

until too late.

Afterwards the Town strove hard to get another goal, and came very near, but did not succeed.

If a plebiscite were taken of the 9,000 spectators the palm would be given to Till. Once more he played a glorious



J. TILL

game, and there was not a phase of back play in which he did not excel. Graham did well, but had less to do than usual, and was not so prominent as we have come to expect. Mingay kept goal safely, and had some hot stuff to negotiate in the first half.

The Town halves are still lacking the standard reached last season, and must do better. Certainly they were better than in most previous games, but are

STILL IN ARREARS.

Millar played well, and Gordon was better in attack than defence, as we expect from a player who is really a forward. Richards did good work in the second half in conjunction with his wing, but misses the heavy grounds.

The inside forwards played splendidly in approach. Woods and Thomson were cunning craftsmen, always using their brains to good purpose, and the former is rapidly gaining favour for his coolness and skill in opening up attacks. In front of goal little would come right for either, but Jim Thompson profited by their work, and his first goal was a beauty. Clark was not an improvement upon Pointon, though he played fairly well, and Dennis was near his customary good class.

For the visitors, Ferguson proved a fine goalkeeper, and both backs were sturdy and aggressive. Bartley appears to be a rare discovery. At half Rutherford was the pick, though Nichol played finely in the first half. Marshall, who was suffering from a severely damaged wrist, and was not anxious to turn out, was quite the class man of the attack, and got the best out of a robust centre-forward and a fast right winger, while the left flank did clever work when fed.

RAMBLERS' F.C. SCORE.

SUCCESSFUL DANCE.

It was well that the committee responsible for the arrangement of the Ramblers' football club dance at Castle-street Hall, Luton, on Saturday, limited the tickets of admission to a hundred. If everyone who wanted to pay at the door had been admitted, the dancers must surely have overflowed into Castle-street!

Those wise enough to secure tickets were unanimous in voting the dance a great success. Much of the credit was due to the M.C., Mr. Val. Jorey, the Secretary of the club, and his committee, though the Bon V dance band could never have played better. A spot dance competition was won by Mr. H. Stratton and Miss Parsons. Members and friends of the club hope that the others of a series of dances arranged for the winter season, will be equally