

REINFORCEMENTS REQUIRED.

Luton Win Again, But Should Do Better.

GILLINGHAM'S DEFEAT.

(By "CRUSADER.")

One can hardly call the progress of Luton Town a "primrose path," but it is satisfactory that points were added, and the two earned at Gillingham's expense, on Saturday, kept the Club in the best position on the League table. Three teams are ahead at present, but each has played a game more while the first below, Millwall, have a point less for two more games played. It is just as well to bear in mind, however, that the Town have played five of their games at home, and if two points come at the expense of Norwich there will have been two matches at home for each away.

With our defence playing so well, however, that is not so formidable as it might appear. What concerns most of us are the rather

UNSATISFACTORY FEATURES

of half-back play and shooting by the forwards. If there is a strengthening of these departments we may well look to the future with a good deal of hope. For this reason: During the last five or six years this Southern Section of the Third Division has been monopolised by half-a-dozen clubs, as far as championship prospects are concerned. The clubs with financial stability have generally made the pace. Last season we had the exception in Reading, and that, I think, was the beginning of the change that means a chance for clubs like Luton Town.

Where there is a winning team there will be the support. Reading, two seasons ago, had to canvass tradesmen before they could find the money to bring the team to Luton. Last season they made

A HANDSOME PROFIT,

and the question as to whether it would pay Luton to get into the Second Division is conclusively answered by the experience of Reading. Last Saturday there were 25,000 spectators at Elm Park, and, while it is difficult to imagine that number at Luton, even for a Second Division game, there can be little doubt, judging from the attendances to date, that there would be something like an average of 12,000 if promotion were earned.

Where they would come from, I cannot guess, but neither could Reading have supplied an answer two seasons ago, when their attendances were more often in the neighbourhood of 4,000 than 10,000. The people come with the victories, and it is nothing short of remarkable that there should be such an attendance at Reading, considering that they have won only two of their ten games.

After a fifth of the games have been played Luton's position shows

A DISTINCT CHANCE

of promotion if there is the enterprise to strengthen the side where necessary, and it is constantly a topic among supporters that there is immediate need for new players. I do not advocate the squandering of the extra money accruing from the splendid gates, for the men doing duty to-day have not been gathered at great outlay. Some supporters are hankering for men at any cost, but that is impossible while the Club is under obligations of no small consideration to the bank. My concern is the heavy programme. It cannot be argued that there has been severe suffering owing to injury so far. The mishap to Dennis in the first game was a red light; the hurt to Agnew brought out the qualities of Woods; but the accident to Moir, which, to my mind, is more serious than now appears (I sincerely hope I may be mistaken), robs the Club of the most reliable deputy for either Graham or Till. There is no player of

sufficient skill

TO REPAIR THE DEFICIENCY

if either of these gets injured. The Reserves cannot be expected to continue playing two games a week without reinforcement, and, while the directors have made a good move, and, I believe, something of a capture, in Paddy Corcoran, mentioned elsewhere, the emphatic call is for another back and one or two half-backs.

An old friend put it to me on Saturday night that I wanted to see anyone at centre-half in preference to Rennie. That is incorrect. While he has not fulfilled all expectations, Andy Rennie is the best we have, but at the moment he is out of the question, and a big, strong man is needed for this position. Even supposing that every position in the first team were adequately filled at the moment, however, there is the reserve strength to be considered, and unless something is done it is possible that the chances of realising ambitions may be jeopardised, if not wholly

ELOTTED OUT.

Gillingham put up a good show in the first half of the game last Saturday, but, unmistakeably, revealed the half-back weakness. They were too fast and too clever for the Town's middle men in the first half-hour, and but for the courageous and skilful defence of Graham and Till the first home defeat would have been inflicted. There was in the play of the visitors something of the style and class we saw in the play of the 'Spurs' team the previous Wednesday; the ball was kept down, swung about from player to player, and the middle men moved up in support of the forwards. No sharper test of the Town's defence could be desired, and the credit for the Town's success in the first half went to the defence.

Jim THOMPSON scored a very fine goal after Woods had done the first part of the scheming. Subsequently the whole of the Town team played better, and the inside forwards did brilliant, speedy work at times, but something was lacking from

THE MACHINERY.

Jim THOMPSON got the second goal as the result of this clever inside forward play, and it was well for him, perhaps, that he came out of his shell, for Reid's displays with the Reserves have qualified him for the leadership of the attack as soon as the directors have made up their minds.

Other goals should have been registered, for the work merited it, and this poor finishing is keeping the goal average from being what we would like. The other forward work merits more goals, and while victories by the odd goal in three are welcome, there would be more confidence if there were improvement in marksmanship. Gillingham were no better, it is true, and RUTHERFORD was lucky to get his goal after Gordon had blocked the first free-kick. Mingay must have been unsighted when Rutherford got in his second shot, but the old Town player was delighted with his success.

The second half display of the Town gave them

THE RIGHT TO VICTORY.

There was something more like balance in the side. Mingay kept goal well; Till was magnificent, the best defender, if not the best player, on the field. His understanding with Millar nipped in the bud many an effort by the visitors. Graham did not do too well, and he and Richards are not harmonising so well as the other flank. Gordon's utility as a forward was proved by his passing, but he is not rugged enough for the centre-half berth as play goes to-day. There was really bright combination between him and the inside forwards in the second half. So between the flank halves and their wings, but Millar was the best in recovery.

Wood and Norman Thomson were the sparks forward, and each played clever football, being sure of foot and altogether

TOO TRICKY

for the opposition. They did not shoot well. Jim Thompson's pressure on the back

division was pronounced, as usual, and he quite deserved his two goals. Clark was prone to hang on too long, but did very well betimes, without excelling the performance of Pointon at Southend, and Dennis has no serious rival for the extreme left position. For the first time Dennis failed to score from a penalty-kick. He shot straight at Ferguson, and the ball struck the goal-keeper's foot and rose over the bar.

Gillingham's best were Ferguson, who kept goal splendidly; the backs, who were fearless and resolute; Rutherford, until he got tired of chasing the Town's inside forwards; and Marshall, the clever inside-right.

There were upwards of 9,000 spectators, and the game was worth the attendance.

LUTON TOWN	2
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GILLINGHAM	1
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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.—Mr. G. T. Gould, London.