

SIX GOALS SHARED.

LUTON TOWN FAILED TO BEAT ABERDARE.

Gift Goals.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 3
ABERDARE ATHLETIC 3

LUTON:—Mingay; Graham, Till; Gordon, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Thomson, Reid, Woods, Dennis.

ABERDARE:—Leahy; Walsh, Baynam; Beever, Harwood, Nicol; Sheldon, Brown, Jones, Burnham, Callaghan.

Referee:—A. J. Attwood, Newport.

Someone in the grand stand turned to me on Saturday and asked me not to tell the directors whom they should select. I never do, though quite a number appear to think that way. It is my unfortunate lot to tell the story of the game as I see it, but, as with most of the followers, the disappointment of such a result as the above cuts down enthusiasm a good deal. I do not think there are a dozen people who could be found to agree unanimously upon the changes that have been made during October, and the only thing upon which unanimity could be secured is the opinion that there should be more changes. Just where the changes would be made is another matter, of course. Directors have a right to exercise their judgment as they think fit, and others to grouse.

Undoubtedly a point was dropped on Saturday through

WEAK GOALKEEPING.

and while the Welshmen played a really good game, they should have returned empty. In view of the fact that they scored three goals, two of which should have been saved by Mingay, everybody was disposed to visit upon the unhappy goalkeeper the whole of the responsibility. It may not be a popular attitude, but I am not going to do that. Certainly he had a wretched afternoon, but there were other players a long way below average merit. Apart from the backs not a line reached the level we expect, and it was not all due to the disheartening effect of Mingay's errors—not by very long chalks.

In the first half the Town did more of the attacking after

A POOR START.

but never showed the unison, control and speed of the "Darians." Neither were they so quick to snap a chance, and one could well have imagined that the positions on the League table were reversed.

(Continued from previous column.)

the net. Within two minutes, Letchworth had drawn further ahead. Franklin forced a fruitless corner, and placed the ball for TASKER'S head to beat Seal all the way. The visitors then took up the running, and Temple missed badly when he had no one to beat, and Olney was responsible for a splendid save from Nash at point blank range. Pitt and Davy tried their luck, but their shots were badly placed. Hands against Sells looked dangerous, but Olney cleared Brunton's free kick. From this point to the close it was mainly the Welsh defence versus the Letchworth forwards, but no further goal came, the last incident of note being when Brown hit the cross-bar with a splendid shot, the goalkeeper clearing the rebound. The final whistle sounded with the home team winners as stated above.

Mr. A. E. Nye (Stevenage) refereed with satisfaction, and the following were the teams:—

LEITCHWORTH.—T. Olney; J. Sells, J. Washford; C. Dear, F. Webster, A. Cater; A. Parkes, W. Mynott, R. Brown, A. Tasker, L. Franklin.

WELSHMEN.—P. Seal; A. Forlong, W. Brunton; G. Moss, C. Wiemer, G. Hills; H. Davy, F. Nash, R. Pitt, C. Temple, E. Crowe.

Graham and Till were severely worked in this period, but few thought that the visitors would receive a gift goal. Sheldon, who was too clever for Millar at this time, swung across a nice centre, and Jones deflected the ball weakly into the goal near the post. Mingay appeared to have the ball quite safely in his arms when he let it slip over the line. The referee was close up.

Leahy's charge was stormed at times, but he kept good well, and there was only

ONE GOOD SHOT

put in by the Town forwards. That came from Pointon—a fine cross shot flashing just past the post. On the other hand the visitors generally found gaps to shoot at, and thrice the Town goal had narrow escapes, for Mingay did not appear to be able to grasp the ball se-



J. POINTON.

curely. Still, there was no further puncture before the interval.

ABERDARE 1
LUTON Nil

In the second half the Town began well, but Aberdare were very much in earnest, and there seemed to be no more danger of their losing the lead than there was of their adding to it. Suddenly, however, the Town forwards, who had been holding the ball too close, began to swing it about. The wisdom of this was apparent, for fierce attacks were launched, and Leahy's troubles came thick and fast. After his goal had weathered

A TREMENDOUS ASSAULT.

and had escaped in a fashion that defeats description, there was a scrimmage in the goal area. Twice the ball was sent high in the air, and eventually DENNIS rushed up and, by leaping higher than any other player, managed to head the ball over the line, and the "pack" rushed it into the back of the net to make sure.

Before the smiles had straightened out the Town left wing came again, and Dennis sent over a slanting centre that beat the goalkeeper, and POINTON timed his rush to carry the ball on his toes into the net. The visitors made valiant response, and showed loopholes in the Town defence. Callaghan once got through, and his centre

HIT THE UPRIGHT

and went out, while just afterwards Mingay made his best save of the match by diving at a cross from Burnham before Jones could get to the ball. Then there was another helter-skelter to the end; the ball was crossed and re-crossed, and eventually skinned off Thomson's head to the feet of POINTON, who shot like lightning, and Leahy was

hopelessly beaten. This was the best goal of the match from a marksman's standpoint, and the three had consumed the space of less than ten minutes.

A comfortable feeling seemed to ripple all round the ground, for with two goals lead the game seemed to be quite safe, especially as the visiting halves were showing signs of distress. Had the Town forwards maintained their methods they would have earned more goals, but they returned to the close game, and had finished their tally. Aberdare had not. Once more

THERE WAS CONSTERNATION

when HARWOOD scored with a free kick from 30 yards' range, the shot travelling at "pass" pace rather than fast, and it seemed as if Mingay could not move to step its progress into the net. It was clear that nothing was safe, and the visitors proved it. Callaghan, who was a grand left winger, made the pace and sent the ball forward for JONES to take in his stride, and, although wide to the left wing, he smashed home a beautiful shot that went in just under the bar. It was a capital effort, and I would not credit Mingay with fault in failing to stop such a shot. I counted it a good goal.

There were terrors at each end afterwards, but no further score, and the Town had dropped another valuable point.

There was

A SPLENDID CROWD

again: far larger than one could expect considering the bitterly cold weather. If that attendance is to be secured there must be changes, if not drastic, at least interesting. This has been an ill-starred month for Mingay, and he would be the last to decline blame for the first goal, at any rate. He appears to have lost confidence, and that means losing goals. Graham had a toughish handful to deal with, and has played better, but neither he nor Till could be blamed for the loss of the goals. Till was the outstanding performer, and in kicking and tackling had no equal by a long, long way. He retains his form in remarkable degree. Gordon was quite the best of the middle men. He did not always get the better of Callaghan, but more than held his own against

THE MOST ELUSIVE YOUNGSTER

we have seen for a long time. Moreover, he took a prominent and useful part in attack, and passed splendidly in his wing. Rennie did well for an hour, and then tired, but is playing better than at the beginning of the season. Millar was off colour, and much below his best.

The forwards never really got moving as a machine. Parts of the line seemed slow and cumbersome, and the other parts were ragged. Reid was included in the line for his successful shooting with the Reserves. None would have thought so on this form, for he was too long in making up his mind to shoot, and so did not get a good shot in during the game. Jim Thompson was missed because of his size and weight, but it seemed to me that Reid got very few passes on the ground, and a push through the middle from his immediate colleagues was unknown. He gave both wingers some very nice passes, with which they

SHOULD HAVE DONE BETTER

work, particularly in the first half, but they certainly responded well after the interval. Pointon was the best of the line, for he introduced some fire when it was most necessary. Woods was clever, but found the opposition very much quicker in tackling, and much the same might be said of Thomson. Neither seemed disposed to trust Reid with a shooting chance

For the visitors Leahy made many good saves. Walsh was an energetic defender, and Harwood played a fine game at centre-half. The forwards were the best part of the side. Their speed was amazing at times, and they dribbled and passed accurately. Callaghan was very good indeed, and in Jones, the "Darians" appear to have a very dangerous leader.

Mr. Attwood gave the best display of refereeing we have seen this season.