

A SHOCK.

ABERDARE SNATCH A POINT AT LUTON.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Many suggestions have reached me as to the action the directors of Luton Town should take in consequence of the result of Saturday's game. It would be useless if I were to publish all the advice received concerning the team to visit Watford, for, in the first place, the directors meet very early in the week, and even if they waited until Friday night, I know perfectly well that the advice would not make the slightest difference. They would still select the team according to their own ideas, and rightly so, for I believe that nearly every phase of opinion among the supporters is reflected in the board-room.

As I came from the match on Saturday one of the oldest supporters of the club, a shareholder, said he had a conundrum for me: "Why, if the goalkeeper is at fault, has the centre-forward been dropped?" The answer, I suppose, is because the directors feel that their resources for the one position are better than for the other. Many bitter things were said after Saturday's game. Some were perhaps deserved, but others were unjust. I am afraid many who speculate in

FOOTBALL COUPONS

were badly hit by the Town. Some, indeed, have told me so, because the game looked a certainty for Luton. I would point out that Leeds United were in even worse plight. They held a position relatively as good as Luton's, but Everton, the bottom club, went to Leeds and won comfortably.

These surprises are the spice of the game and occur every Saturday, and Luton must suffer their share with the rest. The main thing is to guard against them, and it was probably in this mind that the directors dropped Jim Thompson from the centre-forward position. To my view they were justified in giving Reid a chance, and followers will appreciate Thompson's sportsmanship when they know that on the day that he first forfeited his place he sent a message hoping that the town would win at Newport. Personally I prefer Thompson at centre-forward for the same reason that I always preferred Jennings at centre-half. For a small man to be in any key position he must be superlatively clever, for in these days so much depends upon strength and height. Reid was, and still is, I believe, young enough to become a first-class inside wing player, but against the

TOWERING DEFENDERS

of to-day he does not get many chances to shoot as a centre-forward, and yet he is the best marksman in the club.

The other position that has become a centre of controversy is goal. Frankly, Mingay is having a very bad time. In looking over the results to date, I am convinced that Luton Town should have had a clear lead at the head of the table, and the best goal average in their section, and Mingay has been considerably at fault. It is unjust, however, when a man is accused of deliberate error. Harry Mingay has tried to do his best all the time, and I am sure that if he were asked to choose an honour for his football career, his choice would be that he should help to win promotion. Last year he played well enough to save points, and I hope he will recover that form and do it again this season.

Against Aberdare on Saturday he was at fault over the first goal, for he allowed a simple effort to slip through his hands. Later, when the team had made quite a wonderful recovery, and had established

A LEAD OF TWO GOALS,

he was at fault again on at least one occasion, and the visitors eventually took away a point.

There were other players, however, who were a long way below the form we expected—probably in every department. The Aberdare men were ever so much quicker on the ball, elusive in possession, knowing how to hold and when to part, and gaps were made in the Town defence. The Aberdare right wing was very troublesome, and it was from a clever movement that Sheldon got the ball across for JONES to beat Mingay. The first half honours went to the visitors, perhaps, though the strength of the Town backs was a difficult obstacle. On the other hand the Town forwards were not up against such quality, and they had the better chances, but failed to utilise them. Leahy was very safe, however, when his backs were flustered, and so Aberdare retained their lead at the change of ends.

In the second half we seemed likely to suffer a similar experience, for two of the Town halves were slow and irresolute, and the forwards were hanging on to the ball not only when they had drawn the opposition, but so long that they gave

AMPLE TIME

for recovery, with the result that they were dispossessed. Then came a sudden change. They began to swing the ball about, and in less than ten minutes they had registered three goals.

Following a terrific assault DENNIS headed the equaliser. A minute later Dennis centred for POINTON to rush the ball into the net, and then, following a brief but fierce onslaught by the Welshmen, POINTON shot a fine goal from another swinging pass.

Then, when Aberdare, to all intents and purposes, were a beaten side, came the revelation. HARWOOD beat Mingay with a free-kick, and it would be difficult to know which was the more surprised, the visiting captain or Mingay. This gave the visitors new heart, and they pegged away until success again attended their efforts, JONES shooting a fine goal to crown clever work by Callaghan.

On the principle that we deserve all we get, Aberdare are to be congratulated on

CAPTURING A POINT.

but I think it is absurd to suggest that they were the better team. Their forward work was more attractive, and Luton had no pull at half, but they were fortunate to get more than one goal, and perhaps to get even that. They treated the crowd to the more scientific forward play, but for downright effectiveness give me the style the Town adopted for about 10 minutes. To swing the ball across when the opposition least expects it is a potent type of attack, and I was amazed that the Town forwards did not maintain it when they had proved its efficacy. Most of us envied Aberdare their left-half, the two wingers, and the centre-forward, but Callaghan especially. He is a rare find.

Let's hope Mingay's bad period is over. He has had enough of it. Till was again the pick of the defensive powers, Graham being rather less effective than usual, especially in the second half. At half Gordon again

PLAYED FINELY.

and was easily best. Rennie and Millar did good work betimes, but the former was often left standing by the quick methods of the visiting forwards, and Millar did not get going properly at any time.

Of the forwards it is difficult to sum up why they failed to reproduce their Newport form. The ground conditions were not less favourable, and the only change in the personnel was at outside-right, and here Pointon was quite the best of the bunch. He was the man who changed the complexion of the game, but did not get enough work, and should have been fed better after his two goals. There was no combination worth speaking of, and the understanding between halves and forwards was missing. Reid gave good passes to his wings, but he got few back, and when the inside men did essay to put him through he was usually overpowered. After the Newport display I was very much disappointed.

I must put a word in for Mr. Attwood. He handled the game better than anyone we have seen on the Town ground for a long time.

LUTON TOWN 3

ABERDARE ATHLETIC 3

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

ABERDARE—Leigh; Walsh; Bayham; Reeve; Harwood; Nicol; Sheldon; Brown; Jones; Burnham; Callaghan.

Referee—A. J. Attwood, Newport.