

RAMAGE RAMPANT.

COVENTRY'S CENTRE - HALF THE CONQUERING HERO.

(By "CRUSADER.")

COVENTRY CITY 4 goals
LUTON TOWN 1 goal
COVENTRY. — Newton; C. A. Mouldley, Gay; Brown, Ramage, Gardiner; Hopper, Dunn, Heathcote, Herbert, Ferguson.
LUTON. — Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Woods, Thompson, Reid, Clark.

Referee: D. H. Asson, West Bromwich.
Several weeks ago, before Luton Town's misfortunes had begun to multiply, a Lutonian, who is in exile, said, "This is going to be Luton's lucky season. You mark my words, we are going to do very well this year." I am now wondering if that gentleman has lost his "Ju-Ju" or touchstone. Had he been at Coventry on Saturday he would have thought that all the medicine men and sorcerers of this world had conspired to work an evil spell to the detriment of Luton. It did not matter that at Coventry station a magnificent black cat was quite friendly and allowed members of the team to stroke its fur the right way. It did not matter that a hearty band of supporters set on edge the nerves of Coventry policemen, who quoted a bye-law, stating that street music was not allowed; and that the term included vocal efforts. It did not matter that the ground was just in

THAT MISH-MOSH CONDITION
that the players say they prefer, or that Richards, having lived in Scotland, knew which way the bawbee would fall when the new Scot, Ramage, spun it in the air. Someone said that Coventry got three goals through a chapter of accidents. I should like another word for it, but I don't know one, unless, indeed, it is—Ramage.

Ramage is the new man Coventry have begged, borrowed or bought from Hearts of Midlothian, and I am sure that all the supporters will agree with me when I say that he was the outstanding player of the twenty-two. Of magnificent build, he was the chief instrument in helping Coventry to get three goals lead when the Town were struggling to get into their stride. He was the stalwart who prevented the Town getting three goals when they were playing really good football in the second half. Ramage rampant—on the rampage! Some idea of how he came to Coventry was given me by the Coventry officials, and the more we saw of him the more we regretted that his mileage had not been

A LITTLE FARTHER
and brought him to Luton. If he remains at Coventry you can be assured that the "Bantams" will not long be in their present lowly position. One man alone cannot win a match, perhaps, but when his influence spreads and permeates his colleagues as did that of Ramage, then he merits the honours. It is a weakness of mine to think that the dominating personality in a game is of far greater value in the pivotal position than elsewhere. He is a real connecting link; encouraging defence and attack, and in touch with every sector and every unit. Various amounts were said to have been paid for him—from £2,000 to £3,000. I do not think anything like four figures has been paid for him, though I should be surprised if the deal were quite completed, but, whatever the cost, if this were his average game, he was worth it—if a player ever were worth a transfer fee.
THE OTHER PLAYERS
did well, and not a penny was paid for them, but I do not think they would have done anything like so well without Ramage.

Coventry began well on the heavy ground, were quicker on the ball than the majority of the Town players, and were certainly faster in possession. Moreover, they were not afraid to swing the ball about, and so Harper had early opportunities of showing his mettle. The Town had a territorial advantage, but were too strong in their passing, and time after time when a gentle tap would have brought a cargo of trouble for Newton, the ball was given a wallop that took it wide and safe. Black was slow in these early stages, the main trouble came from the home left wing, and it was nice understanding between the pair that brought about several attacks. Then came the first goal, and although it has been recorded by some of the Coventry writers as due to the extraordinary skill of Herbert, all that he had to do with it was the fact that

HE GOT IN THE WAY
of a hard kick by Harper. The ball was gathered by the lengthy Brown, who did a bit of juggling and then lobbed it over the heads of the Town backs. Herbert slipped past the backs as Harper ran out. The goalkeeper kicked the ball very hard, and it simply struck HERBERT and rebounded at lightning speed into the net. One Town supporter, grousing, said, "If the goalkeeper's name had been Newton the ball would have hit the corner flag." Herbert's merit lay in getting in the way, and blame did not attach to Harper.

The Town attacked strongly after this, and Reid put in a couple of hammer-blow shots, Newton having a lot to do and doing it well. One fierce drive spun out of his hands, but went the right side of the post. Jim Thompson appealed for a penalty when a mighty drive that was going like a cannon shot hit a defender, and Newton punched on to the bar a shot from Clark, and the ball went over. Then came a further success to Coventry. A lofty kick was made, and Heathcote and Richards, 25 yards from goal, jumped to head the

ball. Richards went the higher, and headed the ball away, but the whistle went and a free kick was awarded in spite of Richards' protests—and certainly I saw

NO SIGN OF AN OFFENCE.

RAMAGE took the kick, and a great drive seemed to gather impetus from the greasy ground as it went direct to Harper, who was well placed for it. He got his hands to the ball, but it went through them and off his knees and landed high in the net. It was a splendid shot. Just before this Jim Thompson fell lame, and through this mishap the third goal came. He stopped the ball, but could not go after it quickly, with the result that it was snapped up by Richards, who turned and kicked it gently with the intention of allowing Harper to clear. He only put it just right for HERBERT, however, who promptly jumped in and shot into the net as Harper came out.

Those were the three goals by which Coventry led with the game about 20 minutes old. Instead of losing heart the Town buckled into it with a will. Jim Thompson had gone to outside left. Clark inside, and Reid centre. Woods, who was playing fine football, and keeping the ball moving, initiated an attack and gave to Pointon. The latter returned the ball, and the inside right took a shot; CLARK deflected the ball as it came through the mud at a great pace, and Newton was well beaten.

The Town attacked frequently after this, but chances were missed through dalliance, and at the interval the score read:—

COVENTRY CITY 3 goals
LUTON TOWN 1 goal

Our hopes of seeing the Town make a big and successful effort to get on level terms were doomed to disappointment. Reid was well on the mark, and Newton had some anxious moments, but a sudden rush by the home inside forwards gave DUNN plenty of time to sum up a chance, and he gave Harper no chance with a fast cross shot.

It was after this that we saw the best of the Town. They did the major portion of the attacking, and yet Coventry were infinitely more dangerous when they got on the move. The cleverness of Rennie in dribbling and feeding was excellent, and time after time the forwards were well placed for scoring, but could not find that extra bit of "devil" that would have done the trick. It was in this period that Ramage stood out as a great defensive asset; his alertness saved the home forwards, and had they doubled their score it would have occasioned no surprise, so marked was the contrast between their finishing dash and that of the Town. So the game wore on to the end, and the Town were well beaten.

LUTON'S COMBINATION
in the second half was often reminiscent of their form against the Palace, but the finishing was not so good. The team were not well together until the damage had been done.

Harper should be credited with some measure of blame for the second goal scored by Coventry, but I am not the man to do it. Ramage's shot was a fine effort, and the pace of the ball beat the goalkeeper, as it would have beaten others. He had no chance with three shots, and made some fine saves. Richards was to blame for the third goal, but he played quite as well as any Town defender. Till was hardly so sure as usual, but I think both backs had too heavy a burden thrust upon them through the weakness of the middle. Black made a slow start, but improved, and was the best of the line, taking the game throughout. Millar did not find his best at any time, but late in the game he and Till then endeavoured to make amends by putting some sting into the attack. Rennie showed admirable ball control and passing in the second half, but was wild in shooting, and often was not capable of holding

THE NIPPY INSIDE FORWARDS.
Woods was the leading light forward, and the one man who could hold and pass accurately from beginning to end. He was in a class by himself. Reid and Clark did not let the side down. Both played hard. The former shot well, though he did not score, and Clark played a very useful game. He got into it to good purpose, and from his work in the second half goals should have come. Pointon might have had more to do, for he seldom failed when he got the ball given to him in a decent position. Jim Thompson was off colour, but there was a good reason for it. He was not merely up against a class centre-half, but he told me on Friday night that he did not feel confident, that his leg was troubling him, but because of statements that he was "swinging the lead" and dissatisfied, he felt that he had better play. That was the position. His lameness was evident before the game was 20 minutes old.

For Coventry, Newton and his backs were pretty sound. Gay was especially good, but I think they imbibed confidence from Ramage, who was a great player in every sense of the word. Brown also played a fine game. All the forwards were fast and clever, but Hopper and Ferguson, the wing men, especially shone.

Mr. Asson will not referee another F.A. Cup Final on this form. He made many mistakes, though impartial.

There were not more than 5,000 present, and some 700 hailed from Luton.