

LUCK AND PLUCK.

Watford Wrest a Point from Luton.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Those of us who visited Watford in October were not greatly impressed by the display of the home side, although they beat the Town by the odd goal in three. On the face of it their performance at Luton on Saturday was far better, as it was more valuable to them at this time, yet their team was scarcely a shadow of the eleven that won. Conditions were somewhat different, and the spell of fine weather had dried the Town ground very thoroughly, consequently the ball was light and very difficult to control. Nevertheless, it should have been better used, especially by the Town.

VIM AND DETERMINATION.

Watford were mainly engaged on the defensive, and it was their robust and tireless energy in this department that enabled them to take home the point. Their two goals came as the result of raids that were few and far between, and of the two advances they made in the second half one was fruitful. The Town were much the better side in the attempt at constructive policy, but Watford's youthful vim and grim determination to fight every yard of ground was a continual worry to the home forwards and halves, for the latter were just as much subject to tackles as were their forwards.

COMBINATION LACKING.

In the first half the Town had a very considerable pull, but quite early it was evident that goals would be hard to get because of the irritating failure to get the ball under control quickly or to pass it accurately. The combination among halves and forwards, so bright a factor in the play of the Town during the last month, was missing, and the ball was up in the air far too much. Watford were content that it should be so, and their efforts were crude in the extreme. Now and then Stephenson made an attempt to get something like cohesion into the work of the front line, but he had a lone hand for most of the time.

GOALS.

Yates and his backs had done splendid work before Watford opened the scoring about seven minutes before the interval. Rennie had fouled somebody, and Prior lifted the ball well into the goal-mouth. Graham headed, but did not send far enough, and the ball came back to FOSTER, who had his back to the goal, but he quickly got it down, and turned sharply to drive it into the net.

The Town again took up the pressure, and after fierce attacks had been beaten off, and Yates had made very fine saves, the goalkeeper was penalised for carrying. There was much ado before the kick could be taken, and while the Watford players were trying to scrounge as much ground as possible, Clark just touched the ball, and BLACK, who had slipped up, kicked it into the net, and at the change over the score stood:—

LUTON TOWN 1

WATFORD 1

The second half found Watford short-handed, for Warner had strained himself, and could not resume. The Town took charge of the game, and hammered away, winning corners and getting many free-kicks as a result of the infringements Watford yielded in their desperate endeavours to frustrate a score. Yates saved magnificently, and his backs kicked and tackled vigorously, while the halves never stood on ceremony for a moment. The goal had many remarkable escapes, and Yates brought off really brilliant saves from Thompson and Woods. The visitors then lost Leaver for a little while as the result of a nasty gash over the eye, sustained in a collision with Reid as they were trying to head the ball.

LEAD LOST AGAIN.

With nine men Watford battled on, and from a move by Stephenson the ball was carried into the Town half. The departure of Graham to outside-right as the result of a damaged ankle in a tackle had somewhat upset the defence, but there was some bad kicking, and as a result the Watford forwards found a nice situation. Foster cleverly sent the ball to ROBERTS, who was not impeded, and that player ran in and shot into the net. The Town once more took up the struggle, and play was in the Watford penalty area practically all the time. Corners and free kicks became monotonous, and though Leaver returned, he was a third back, and the whole team concentrated on defence. It seemed that they would succeed, but one of the many corner kicks won by Clark brought the scores level. The Town winger placed the ball well, and THOMPSON managed to kick it into the net, though it glanced off the upright.

In the closing stages the Town went all out for a win, and nearly succeeded. The best shot of the game was made by Thompson in this period, a scorcher just rising over the bar. Yates, however, maintained his charge intact, and the end came with the score:

LUTON TOWN 2 goals

WATFORD 2 "

THE PLAYERS.

Harper had a holiday, having little to do in the first half, and very much less in the second. Graham and Richards were sound enough in such tackling as they were required to do, and the former was the more accurate in kicking. Richards was very erratic, although he was the one player who could vie with the visitors in the matter of robust tactics. The

honours of the middle line went to Black, who played splendidly throughout, and Rennie was fairly good, though not so prominent as in recent games. Millar has seldom been so much off colour as in this game, and he seemed to be more troubled than anyone by the liveliness of the ball.

Forward Thompson was always dangerous and Clark was active and persistent; Woods did not get going so well as usual, and Reid was not up to recent standard. Pointon suffered for lack of employment, and the line as a whole showed little understanding.

Watford were saved by the brilliance of Yates, and the strength and relentless energy of his backs. Leaver played a useful game, but of the others little was seen except in the character of obstructionists.

It was the poorest game seen at Luton for a long time.

The crowd numbered over 10,000.
LUTON. — Harper: Graham, Richards; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Reid, Thompson. Woods, Clark.

WATFORD.—Yates; Slade, Prior; Morris, Leaver, Woodward; Stephenson, Warner, G. Wilkinson, Foster, Roberts.

Referee.—W. Musther, London.