

A CLOUT FOR COVENTRY.

Luton Town Win a Vigorous Game.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Coventry City did not spring the surprise that even many supporters of Luton Town were expecting, for the argument is that the Town cannot be expected to go much longer without defeat at home. There were occasions during the first half-hour of the game on Saturday when the visitors looked quite capable of achieving success where so many have failed, but in the end they were well beaten, and the Town have but three more obstacles to negotiate in order to go through the season with an unbeaten record at home. Had they played in all matches with the spirit shown in this, they would have been candidates for promotion. Coventry are a greatly improved side, and will rise higher in the table than their present position, but could not cope with the confidence and energy of the Town, and at the finish were good and game losers.

FIRST HALF LEAD.

The goal scored by REID after 14 minutes' play, just about emphasised the Town's superiority in the opening stages, but when DUNN equalised a minute later, the visitors held their own for a long period, and were quite as good as their hosts. The lead went to the Town as the result of one of many similar faults by McClure, the famous centre-half, whom the City obtained from Birmingham. When beaten by Reid's dribble, McClure tripped his opponent inside the penalty area, and the referee was too close at hand to overlook the offence. DENNIS made no mistake with the penalty shot—a fast low drive giving Newton no chance. Still, the balance of play was fairly even, but Thompson made a great run and finally tipped the ball in front for DENNIS, who had followed up, to score at will.

COVENTRY'S RALLY.

With two goals' deficit at the interval, Coventry restarted in a spirit that bade well to recover lost ground. They subjected the Town rearguard to a fierce buffeting, and Harper had to be on his best behaviour. The home attack made retaliatory raids, but the visitors certainly had more of the play for a good fifteen minutes. The Town then began to swing the ball about with more enterprise than at any previous time during the game, and Thompson might easily have scored at least a couple of goals following quick dashes between the backs. Play was faster than ever with the result that it began to sap McClure's stamina, and the Coventry halves could not cope with the long passes of the Town forwards, who were splendidly served by their middle men.

THRUSTS BY THOMPSON.

Thrusts by Thompson raised the crowd to a high pitch of expectation, and once he cleared all opposition except Newton, and everybody expected a bang into the net when the ball passed harmlessly outside. Three times within five minutes the Coventry goal had narrow escapes, first one wing and then the other feeding Thompson to good purpose, and two or three corners being forced. His turn eventually came as the result of a very fine pass by Reid, for THOMPSON took the ball in his stride, careered through the gap the backs had left, and before they could close on him he had gone almost under the nose of Newton before planting the ball in the net.

DIED GAME.

Coventry were a beaten side now, but would not show it. Several times they swept down the field and tried conclusions with the Town defence. Harper made a thrilling save under the bar, and from that point the visitors seemed to feel that they could not succeed, because they lost a lot of energy, and when Herbert had to leave as the result of a collision, their hopes were reduced to zero. Crisp was very lively, but found his match in Till when Millar was not there. Coventry "died game," and though the exchanges were often rougher than necessary, they alone were not the guilty, though McClure was usually the man in trouble.

THE PLAYERS.

All the Town side did well. Harper kept goal splendidly, and Richards and Till were a better pair of backs than the Coventry couple. The home halves also proved better, and the side was as strong here as in any previous game this season. Thompson led the forwards in great style, and all the line played convincing football when they had realised the best methods to adopt under the conditions.

Coventry's attack was the best part of the side, though Newton kept goal well, and was blameless. The backs sagged when the middle men got tired, but every man was a trier to the end.

There were just under 7,000 spectators.

LUTON TOWN 4
COVENTRY CITY 1

LUTON TOWN.—Harper; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Clark, Reid, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

COVENTRY CITY.—Newton; Fergus, Randle; Brown, McClure, Gardiner; Crisp, Dunn, Heathcote, Herbert, Ferguson.

Referee: D. H. Asson, West Bromwich.