

HARD LUCK.

Luton Lose Though Cleverer than Rangers

(By "CRUSADER.")

Yet again Saturday's game at Shepherd's Bush was an illustration of the dictum that the better team does not always win. Queen's Park Rangers seldom looked like a winning side until the closing stages of the game, when it became to a large extent a matter of proving which side could hold out the longer. But for the rally of the Rangers in the last ten to fifteen minutes they could not compare with the Town as a football team. Individually they had one or two very useful men, but as a side were lacking combination, and for the greater part of the game little was seen of their middle men except in the role of defenders.

FORWARD LAPSE.

The Town were unable to drive home their attacks, however, and once more the forwards seemed to have lapsed into the indifferent marksmanship that spoiled so many games in the third and fourth months of the season. The London newspaper reports, speaking generally, do not even scant justice to the Town, and how any writer with knowledge of the game can assert that the Rangers were the better side passes my comprehension. Their attempts were of the most straggling character, and the forwards got no support from the middle men because the latter hardly dare leave their own half.

SWEEPING ATTACKS.

Time after time the Town swept down on Cunningham's charge, and but for the desperate resistance by Sweetman and Young goals galore must have come. The reluctance to shoot was the chief fault of the Town inside forwards, and Reid scarcely had a shot at goal. There was too much of the "walk it through" idea, and magnificently though Thompson played, and he had hard luck on several occasions, a rather lackadaisical effort to beat Cunningham in the second half spoiled a great chance that he had won by a grand bit of work.

EXCUSABLE.

There was some little excuse for him, however, as in the first half he made the best shot of the match after the best solo effort of the game, but Cunningham brought off a really wonderful save at full length.

The Town had the better of the game for an hour and a quarter, and only fell off when the football had become a secondary consideration to the Rangers, and the keeping of the lead alone mattered.

This goal that won the match was a bad one, according to the Town players, and they certainly made enough song about it. Swan made a dazzling little dribble and then shot at great speed for goal; Harper flung himself at the ball and diverted it; GODDARD was rushing up, and as he got the ball and brought it under control the Town appealed as he sent it into the net.

THE BLIND SIDE.

Harper, the backs and several other players clustered round Mr. Gould, who consulted a linesman, but his decision remained, and a goal it was. The players averred that Goddard handled the ball, or he could not have got it to his feet, but both the referee and the linesman were on the wrong side to detect the offence.

This goal came seven minutes after the start, and though the Town goal was occasionally in jeopardy, play was almost continuously in the home half.

THRILLING SCENES.

The goal underwent several thrilling attacks. In the second half Thompson had beat all opposition and the goalkeeper was on the ground, but the ball struck Cunningham, and was rolling slowly into the net when a defender rushed up and got it clear. On another occasion Clark had a fine chance when Dennis centred right under the bar, but the winger headed outside, while a free kick by Black was stopped by the goalkeeper, but the ball fell just too awkwardly for Woods and Dennis, who were close at hand.

THE BOUQUETS.

Apart from the indifferent shooting, little fault could be found with the Town. The rear-guard played as well as could be expected under the handicap of a ground that was inches deep in mud; Harper keeping goal well, and both Richards and Till offering strong and skilful opposition to the home attack. The middle men played well again, and supported the forwards splendidly. Rennie was very fine, and Millar also did well, but Black did not give of his best until the second half.

The right wing was not so prominent as usual, either in shooting or general advance until the second half, and then did well. The left wing was the best wing on the field, Dennis playing brilliantly under the nursing of Woods, while Thompson again led the forwards grandly, but had little luck with his shooting.

For the Rangers Cunningham in goal, Sweetman and Swan were the pick.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 1

LUTON TOWN 0

Q.P. RANGERS. — Cunningham; Sweetman,

Young; Charlesworth, Hawley, Middleton;

Mustard, Varco, Goddard, Swan, Lofthouse.

LUTON. — Harper; Richards, Till; Black,

Rennie, Millar; Clark, Reid, Thompson, Woods,

Dennis.

Referee: G. T. Gould, London.