

LUTON LOSE AT WATFORD.

FORWARDS FAIL TO TAKE CHANCES.

(By CRUSADER).

IT is not the mere incident of defeat at WATFORD that LUTON TOWN have to trouble about, because they are not likely to suffer such miserable misfortune again this season. It is the fact that they were unable to beat a very moderate side, for Watford have very little in their team that can make any pretension to class. Some good stuff they may have in the making, but it is not likely to lift them very far in its present state. Maybe Manager Pagnam will be able to do something with some of the young blood, but there was not a single forward who seemed to have an idea of going through in the manner that made Pagnam a great leader on his day. And Luton were nothing like the team that defeated Brentford. They played patchily in midfield, but had more idea of combination than Watford. In front of goal they were very weak indeed, or they might well have claimed both points at the finish.

THE GOAL.

The goal that won the match for Watford was scored a few minutes after the interval. It was a slow kick forward, not a shot, by SHEPPARD, and the ball bounced in front of Abbott, left a hard bit of turf, and then turned right away from the goalkeeper's ready hands, and went into the net. It was a bad accident for the Town, and for Abbott in particular, but it served to win the game.

The first half was rather in favour of the Town, but the danger moments were few and far between at either end. Nunn caused most alarm in the home camp, for he came into the middle as he snapped up a pass, dribbled round Slade, and had Yates only to beat. He shot hard past the custodian, but the ball struck the bar and came back into play to be scrambled away.

FRASER'S SHOT.

One of the best shots of the game was made by Fraser, who, supporting an attack, caught the ball as it came out of a melee following a corner kick, and shot hard and low. The ball was well away from Yates and going for the net, when Davison kicked away from the line.

At the other end Sheppard put in a ground shot that went close, but Abbott watched the ball go by, and an accidental header by the same player just missed the target. Generally, however, the backs on either side allowed the inside forwards few shooting opportunities, and at the

interval it was agreed that Luton had been just a little the more dangerous side.

In the second half both forward lines missed chances, but the Town were the worse in this respect, for they had more of them, and Yates was several times in action when he should have been left helpless. Then came the quite unexpected goal that settled the issue. The Town put on considerable pressure following the mishap, but while they played pluckily, they could not pull out just that bit of skill at the critical moment that would have meant victory. Nunn often whipped the ball into the middle, but the hefty home backs and Leaver effectually rushed the Town's inside forwards, and got the ball away. Dennis once headed just over the bar, and Pointon, shortly before the end, made his best effort of the game, dribbling through well and snooting hard, but Yates managed to take the ball on his fists and send it high in the air, and it was finally got away.

POOR FINISHERS.

It was a very fortunate day for Watford, for whom Yates, his backs, Leaver, Smith, Hills and Daniels, were best.

The Town defence was fairly sound. Kingham and Graham did very well, and Fraser was the most polished half-back, and probably the most finished player on the field. Black recovered from a poor start, and was doing yeoman service in the second half, while Fulton was good until he got a knock in the second half that reduced his efficiency by half. Nunn again played a capital game, but did not get much support, for all the inside forwards were below par, though Yardley was a great trier. Pointon got very few chances, and was not at his best. There was a decided lack of punch in front of goal, and Reid was right off colour. In spite of the general deficiencies, Luton would have won but for poor finishing.

Luton supporters attended from all round the district, and the "gate" reached the figure of 12,413, the receipts being £771.

WATFORD 1 goal

LUTON TOWN Nil

WATFORD.—Yates; Slade, Davison; Smith, Leaver, Morris; Hills, Foster, Jewitt, Sheppard, Daniels.

LUTON.—Abbott; Kingham, Graham; Black, Fulton, Fraser; Pointon, Yardley, Reid (S.), Dennis, Nunn.