

LUTON LUCKLESS AT EXETER

FIRST HALF LEAD LOST THROUGH INJURIES.

(By CRUSADER).

IT is to be hoped that the disappointment of LUTON TOWN supporters last Saturday when the result came through to upset half-time hopes, will not affect the attendance on Saturday. Supporters may take it from me or any other Lutonian present, that the Town were beaten only by sheer misfortune in the shape of injuries. Had the full eleven been able to remain on the field I am certain that they would have brought two points back. In the first half they had even more of the game than had been the case against Crystal Palace, and had the shooting been as deadly they would have led by just as big a margin.

TRAINER BUSY.

They got such a battering in the second half, when EXETER CITY were bent on getting even, that player after player was hurt, and Horace Pakes, the trainer, saw practically nothing of the game in the second period. He was off the field attending to Nunn when Graham got knocked out, and it was Bert Davies, who travelled with the team as twelfth man, who helped to carry off the Town back and pull him round. The players who did not receive trainer's attention during the course of the game were Fulton, Fraser, Pointon, Yardley and Harkins, but Yardley was in the wars, though he did not show it.

FIRST HALF.

The substantial lead of two goals at half-time was fully deserved, for it was the outcome of fast and dashing football, and though Muir had to bestir himself several times, Holland had far more work, and his goal far more narrow escapes. Pollard, who has been the regular right back of the City for a considerable time, is an awkward little customer, but he did not know what to do with Nunn, who was once more the shining light of the attack. It was his liveliness that brought the first goal, for he courageously tackled the big goalkeeper, and got the ball from him to present RENNIE with an opportunity the centre-forward gladly accepted.

NUNN'S GREAT GOAL.

Better still was the second goal, registered by NUNN himself, after a brilliant solo effort. Rennie swept the ball out beautifully to the left winger, who skipped round Pollard, and tore down the wing. Phoenix managed to cut in front of him, but Nunn waltzed round him, evaded the pulling and pushing of the big half-back, and, keeping the ball under control with masterly side-stepping and feinting, made an arc line that brought him to shooting distance. As Holland rushed out to intercept the winger brilliantly flashed the ball past him. I nearly upset all Press Box traditions. It was such a stirring effort that I wanted to cheer. The ball seemed tied to the little winger's boot, and he had to step over Phoenix's foot twice in the closing swerves of the run.

Had Rennie scored the third goal when he cleverly steered a course between the backs soon afterwards, he would have had his due. His shot flew past the farther upright at a tremendous pace. There were other occasions when the City goal escaped luckily: Nunn once hit a flag-kick from Pointon on the volley, but the ball struck a defender and rebounded. Harkins just missed with a fine header, and Yardley also went close. In this half the Town halves and backs were masters of the home forwards, and Muir was quite safe. Half time:—

LUTON	2
EXETER	0

Disasters came thick and fast soon after the start. Black was suffering from a severe kick on the ankle, and had to change places with Pointon. Nunn was then badly crippled, and that was the worst blow, for in spite of plucky attempts on his return to the field, he could hardly walk, and had to retire altogether. Graham was knocked out in a rush on the Town goal, and then Black had to hobble off, while there were other minor injuries, all of which tended to disorganise and demoralise the team.

CITY'S THREE GOALS.

The City's first goal came as a result of Muir's slackness in clearing, for PURCELL stole a march on him, knocked him flat, and made him throw the ball into his own net. Then, while Nunn was off, DENT headed the second goal, Muir just failing to get at the ball, which came in from close quarters. With the team depleted and Graham still feeling the shock of the knock-out, the City got the winning goal, PURCELL shooting through after Muir had twice saved.

The Town finished with nine men, and at one period had only eight playing. Harkins was at left back and Pointon at right-half, and with Yardley also fallen back to help, Rennie was a solitary figure in the attack, and the position was quite impossible to sustain, for the City played vigorous and relentless football upon the weakened team.

THE PLAYERS.

Muir made many fine saves, but should have saved the first goal. Kingham played valiantly as ever, and was the finest back on view. Graham also did well after a shaky start, and all the middle line stuck to their work grimly and courageously. Nunn was the star. Pointon again showed improvement, and the inside forwards were going splendidly until injuries upset the team.

EXETER CITY	3 goals
LUTON TOWN	2

EXETER. — Holland; Pollard, Miller; Phoenix, Pool, Gee; Purcell, McDevitt, Dent, Vaughan, Compton.

LUTON. — Muir; Kingham, Graham; Black, Fulton, Fraser; Pointon, Yardley, Rennie, Harkins, Nunn.

Referee.—Mr. J. V. Pennington, Reading.