

TEAM WORK TRIUMPHS.

REID GETS FOUR GOALS AGAINST MERTHYR.

(By CRUSADER).

LUTON TOWN rejoiced their supporters by the brilliance of their first half display against MERTHYR TOWN on Saturday at Luton. The pity of it all was that their fine play was confined to the first half. They were soon on top, and playing the game that had riddled the defences of Gillingham and Clapton in previous games, they had the game won at the end of 25 minutes, for they were five goals ahead, and looked like getting more. Unfortunately, and there is little doubt about it, several of the players were not particularly keen on getting more. The result was that in the second half, while just holding their own, they disappointed the crowd, who wanted more goals, and as the match developed into a "get-your-own-back" business, there was no regret when the final whistle brought an end to the struggle.

REID—MARKSMAN.

As a result of the combination and the chances furnished for Reid, the centre-forward was seen at his best, and the visitors simply could not hold him in check, though they tried all sorts of devices, and a good deal of roughness. His first goal came after 11 minutes, when Dennis provided him with a nice forward pass that REID took in his stride, and after forcing himself past Pedler by sheer strength, he crashed the ball past Lindon. The visitors were not idle, and their dapper inside right, Jones, was very elusive. He and Lawley caused a good deal of trouble, but Abbott and the backs were safe, and after further attacks had been frustrated by Lindon and his backs, the Town got their second goal through a penalty. Yardley was dribbling through when badly brought down, and DENNIS succeeded, as is his wont, from the spot kick.

A HAT TRICK.

Apart from infrequent forays by the visitors' right wing, the Town had nearly all the play. It was the left wing that was most pertinacious. Time after time they went through cleverly, and when Woods got the Merthyr defence in a tangle, Yardley headed over to Reid, who nodded the ball past the helpless Lindon. Another clever movement by Woods gave Reid a chance to rush the backs. He was held up temporarily by the joint efforts of Page and Pedler, but Woods returned the ball to him, and REID again went right in before slashing the ball into the net. A few minutes later Woods pushed the ball through for REID, who was just outside the penalty area, to collar, and drive home a magnificent shot that beat Lindon completely.

SECOND HALF DULL.

Even allowing for the fact that Woods suffered injury early on, the Town should have

done much better in the second half, but there was a great falling off in the attacking elements. Much work devolved upon the backs, and though Abbott was not troubled very much, he had to bestir to get rid of some awkward shots, chiefly through the cleverness of the Merthyr right wing. Now and then the Town got a move on, but it was chiefly Reid and Yardley who were intent upon getting more goals, and they did not get support as in the first half. Black alone of the middle men joined in their earnest efforts, and though Lindon made several fine saves, he had nothing like the testing he should have had.

MERTHYR'S GOAL.

The inclination of the Town halves to take things easily met the customary reverse, for in the ultimate one of the visitors' right wing pair made a brilliant run half the length of the field, and presented FORD with an easy chance, of which he took full advantage. The Town tried harder then, but the visitors had got more confidence, and they defended briskly, and with Lindon safe, all attempts were frustrated, though Dennis once put in a great shot that was turned round the post, and Rennie went close with a glorious first-time drive. The number of fouls increased, and with the referee too lenient, the game became monotonous, and the ground was soon empty when the final whistle went.

TEAM SPIRIT TRIUMPHS.

Abbott continues to show his best form, and Kingham and Graham were safe until they lost much of the relief that the skill of the halves had given them in the first half. Black played magnificently all through, and Rennie and Fraser were good enough in the first portion, though taking matters without much concern in the second. Reid took the eye with his powerful leadership, but all the front line played splendidly with the exception of Pointon, who could not find his best, the ball running badly for him. The team spirit in the first half triumphed.

Merthyr are a better team than the score indicates. Lindon is still a fine goalkeeper, and Page and Pedler were lusty backs. The middle men were outplayed before the change over, but did better afterwards, while Jones and Lawley were very clever forwards.

There were 5,000 spectators.

LUTON TOWN 5 goals

MERTHYR TOWN 1 goal

LUTON TOWN.—Abbott; Kingham, Graham; Black, Rennie, Fraser; Pointon, Yardley, Reid, (S.), Woods, Dennis.

MERTHYR TOWN.—Lindon; Page, Pedler; Crewe, Bishop, Lewis; Lawley, Jones, Astley, Livingstone, Ford.

Referee: S. H. Burton, Leicester.