

NOT A GOAL.

LUTON TOWN'S DRAW WITH SOUTHEND.

(By CRUSADER.)

FOR the first time this season LUTON TOWN played in a goal-less game on Saturday. The unfortunate part of it was that the game was at Luton, and this was the eighth point dropped at home in ten games. SOUTHEND UNITED were the visitors, and while it is true they were fortunate on the run of the game, the act remains that their defence was excellent, and to that extent they deserved to share the spoils.

Extensive preparations had been made to get the ground in condition following the severe frost, and a thick carpet of soft sand made play certain, and gave the players a fairly secure foothold. The sky was thick with snow, however, and the weather bitterly cold, and during the uninteresting periods the spectators stamped vigorously in order to keep warm.

A GOOD START.

The Town started as though they would carry all before them, and Pointon got right through in the first minute to bang in a shot that rebounded from the post for Reid to drive just on the wrong side. That was typical of the first half play, for the Town pressed long and vigorously, and prolonged assaults were made on the Southend goal, many corners being forced, and centres came in from either wing with almost monotonous regularity, but the attempts of the inside forwards were cleverly frustrated by the Southend backs, halves, and goalkeeper. There were not so many shots as usual, however, for the openings were limited, thanks to the firm packing by the visiting defenders.

Reid gave a good deal of trouble to the Southend backs, but he was closely watched, and once was brought down in suspicious fashion when he was nearly through. Just before the interval he did get the ball into the net from Dennis' centre, but he was given offside.

SOUTHEND FORWARDS FAIL.

The "Seasiders" did not give Abbott and his backs an inordinate amount of trouble, but when Hick saw anything in the shape of a chance he was on the premises, and his robust tactics were overdone. He and Horne, in fact, were more likely to spoil the pleasure than any others, and, their methods apart, the game was generally clean. Abbott had very little to do, but that was because Kingham and Graham, the former in particular, protected him well.

In the second half the Town again had the better of the play until midway, when the snow began to fall, almost a drizzle at first, but after a few minutes with such thickness that the ground was speedily covered, and foothold was insecure. It was then that the "Seasiders" became more dangerous, and had as much of the play as the Town. Abbott made one splendid save from Hick after the latter had upset Kingham; Hick later sent over, and Bailey put wide when they had good chances.

SAFE DEFENCES.

At the other end, before the snowstorm, Reid and Yardley went very close with good shots, and two or three times Moore cleared his lines in clever fashion. He should have been beaten, however, several times when Pointon and Dennis got good centres squarely in front, for on at least three occasions the ball was headed over when it should have found the net. Both teams tried hard towards the end to get the deciding goal, but the defences were safe, and the score-sheet remained blank.

THE TEAMS.

Southend's defence was very clever. Moore was a fine goalkeeper; and Rosier was in great form, his work throughout being safe and sound. The middle men were solid rather than clever, and their work was mainly in defence, so that their forwards got few chances.

For the Town Abbott was safe enough. Kingham played a good game, and Graham was useful without reaching his best. The halves played nice, constructive football, in which Black excelled, and both Rennie and Fraser won applause for skilful work. The forwards were fast and combined well in midfield, and too good for the opposition until they got to close quarters, when they failed in marksmanship. Reid led the line well, Woods put in a lot of crafty initiatory work, Yardley hustled strongly, and Pointon and Dennis were again in good form, the latter getting the more work.

There were 5,500 spectators.

LUTON TOWN Nil

SOUTHEND UNITED Nil

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

SOUTHEND UNITED. — Moore; Rosier, Bell; Dixon, Frew, Donovan; Horne, Bailey, Hick, Falconbridge, Fell.