

BEATEN AT BRIGHTON.

LUTON TOWN LOSE AGAIN.

(By CRUSADER).

IN misty, unpleasant weather, on a heavy ground, LUTON TOWN were three goals behind at Hove last Saturday before showing anything like equality with BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION, their best play coming in the last fifteen to twenty minutes. In that period they scored, and played with such refreshing vim that they had the home supporters striving to make the Albion realise danger.

Unquestionably, the home team deserved success, but it would have been narrowed had the appeal of the Town players on the third goal been allowed, as, in my opinion, it should have been. There was a genuine doubt whether the ball ever crossed the line, and Mr. Gray was in such a position that it seemed hardly possible he could determine correctly whether the ball had crossed the line or had been arrested upon it. Still, he consulted a linesman who apparently did not differ from the decision, and there was no further trouble. Pressmen and spectators in better position than either official declared that the ball did not cross the line and gave sympathy to Abbott, who had made a fine effort to save.

VIGOROUS ATTACK.

Opening play was fairly even, but the Albion inside forwards soon began to assert vigorous pressure, and their rushes were fraught with danger. So well were they covered, however, and so dilatory were they in trying a shot, that it was a long time before Abbott was called upon to show ability. He made many good saves, subsequently two or three at joint-blank range and it was no fault of his that at the end of 30 minutes he was beaten. COOK took a rebound from a colleague before the ball touched the ground, and drove it into the net at a great pace, right away from the custodian.

That was the only goal before the change of ends. In mid-field the Albion played strongly enough to have scored many times, but Abbott was in great form, and stopped shots from all the forwards and halves, efforts from long and short range with equal facility and judgment. The Town got few chances to shoot, for the inside men were well watched, and given little time or room for shooting. Now and then the wingers got away and centred nicely, but always the hefty opponents stepped in at the right moment and cleared the danger. Once a long high centre by Pointon looked threatening, but Williams punched the ball off Banks' head. Later on Woods got through, and Banks just failed to convert a fast-moving centre.

RETALIATION.

The second half found the teams more evenly matched, and Luton had rather the better of the game for fairly long periods, though at close quarters the home side were always putting more ginger into their work. It was 17 minutes after the change of ends, and following a lot of pressure by Luton, that the home left wing got away, and WILSON took advantage of a mix-up by the defence to slip through and score. More Luton pressure followed, but there was a painful lack of enterprise when within shooting range, and eventually the Albion got going again for COOK to dart through. He was stopped, and the ball came out, but it was returned, and from an offside position, as I saw it, the centre-forward had simply to go in and shoot. He did so, but, in trying to gauge the ball to a nicety, sent against the upright; it travelled across the line, and Abbott, who had advanced, turned and dropped on it, but the referee allowed a goal.

Luton again made play after this, and after Williams had handled several times, Banks passed for Woods to fire in the best shot of his side, Jenkins heading from almost under the bar, and saving a certain goal by sending over. From the flag-kick, taken by Dennis, POINTON dashed in to score a great goal.

The Albion took no risks after this, and the game ended with the Town on the losing side again.

THE PLAYERS.

For the Albion, Williams had little to do; his backs were clever and vigorous, and the halves all hard workers. Of the forwards the two inside wingers were the pick.

For Luton, Abbott again proved a reliable and skilful goalkeeper. Graham played splendidly at back, and over shadowed Kingham, who did many good things, but was not so steady as usual. In the intermediate line all played well, the flankers especially showing clever manipulation and feeding the forwards well, but they were up against a thrust

ful and determined attack. The forwards did not get together until late in the game, and Reid was missed, because there was scarcely a shot worth noting until the last ten minutes. Pointon had not enough work. Yardley was pushful, but not very successful. Woods was clever in constructive work, but not often in alignment; Dennis got much good work from his partner, and did some bright things, but Banks seemed out of position until the closing stages.

There were fewer than 5,000 spectators.

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 3

LUTON TOWN 1

BRIGHTON.—Williams; Jenkins, Curran; Wilkinson, Mace, Little; Simpson, James, Cook, Hopkins, Wilson.

LUTON.—Abbott; Kingham, Graham; Black, Rennie, Fraser; Pointon, Yardley, Banks, Woods, Dennis.