

PRECIOUS POINTS.

LUTON TOWN DEFEAT SWINDON.

Reynolds' Debut.

By Crusader.

NATURALLY there were many critics of Luton Town's reconstructed team last Saturday, but after the game there was a fairly unanimous comment that the display had been better than for many weeks past. All along I have said that the Town had players good enough for a much better position than half the clubs in the League, and it was not because of the incompetence of players that the team could not rise from the bottom position; it was because 'he best could not be got out of them collectively. There were phases of the play of Swindon Town that were more attractive than Luton's, simply because they tried to find each other and play to each other more skilfully.

A COMMON FAILING.

One fault the two teams had in common, and that was the bunching of the inside forwards when near goal. Swindon were more faulty than Luton in that respect, and had they not been so intent upon making Morris their goal-scorer, might have done better. They were quick enough and skilful enough, but could not make anything like the chances that fell to Luton, since they were unable to spread out in orderly array when within range.

The home forwards suffered likewise, but certainly kept their wingers better engaged, opening out the play better, hence the number of centres that fell into the Swindon goal area were more numerous than those at the Luton end. In other respects the teams were pretty evenly matched, and it was just because Ramage and Rennie would ply the wings better that Luton attacked more frequently.

POINTON IMPROVES.

Pointon was the chief menace to the visitors in the first half-hour, and there should have been at least three goals from his centres before a score was recorded. There was a nicer appreciation of the lob than the right winger is wont to give, and it was hard luck for him that the inside forwards failed to get the ball, past Nash when the ball came across so well. Now and then the visitors reached the danger zone, and Walker was twice at fault in trying to get too close before shooting. Morris was unable to break clear except once, and then was so hampered by Richards that he shot wide. On another effort he got past the backs, but Millar had also undertaken the guard, and turned up in time to rob the sharpshooter very neatly when a goal seemed certain.

REYNOLDS MAKES GOOD.

A feature of the play was the useful passing by Reynolds, who was playing very coolly and skilfully in his first essay with the senior side, and kept Yardley and Pointon engaged, and also held Eddleston and Walker well. There was a loud appeal for a goal when a nice centre from Pointon was headed downwards by Dennis, for Nash only reached the ball at the second attempt, and there was a confident appeal that it had crossed the line. However, after Rennie and Yardley had missed chances Ramage swung the ball in from the left, and YARDLEY gathered well, ran right up to Nash, and then put it into the net. It took the Luton defenders all their time to smash the attacks of the Swindon forwards before the interval, but they did so, and the cross-over found the score:—

LUTON TOWN	1
SWINDON TOWN	0

The second half was a real test of stamina, for the bitterly cold weather developed snow, and after a few minutes the referee called a stoppage, owing to a heavy snowstorm that blotted out one-half of the ground. There was some dissatisfaction about this, but it was a wise decision, as events proved, for six minutes later there was a resumption, the sun shining brightly. The frost was keen, however, and the ground had become very hard during the game, and players had difficulty in keeping their feet. Nash had quite enough to do, for the home team were playing just as well as in the first half. Several corners were forced without success, and the shooting was inaccurate. Midway through the half MORRIS got another chance, for he got out of a tangle, whipped out of a tackle with Kingham, and coolly beat Abbott with a well-placed shot.

ALL OUT TO WIN.

It was good to see the manner in which the home team when about their work from now to the end, and a little better shooting would have converted several centres from Dennis, who was now doing most of the leading. Woods fed him splendidly, and the winger responded with nice centres, but the crowd were beginning to get restive when the winning goal came. Nash had managed to stop a centre from the winger, but could not hold the ball, and Rennie and Yardley hampered him; the latter touched the ball to WOODS, who was running in, and shot into the goal.

Play was generally in favour of the home side to the end, but Swindon were always on the alert, and the Luton defenders had to be very watchful until the whistle brought relief.

PLAYERS.

Abbott did his little well, and had no chance with the goal against him. Kingham and Richards were steady backs, the latter playing a grand game, and being the main instrument to frustrate Morris. Ramage also did good work in this direction, but Reynolds and Millar also played finely, and the former could be congratulated on his initial display with the first team. Apart from indifferent marksmanship, the forwards showed vast improvement on their Newport display. Pointon gave a much brighter account of himself than usual, and would do even better if he received more of the long, slanting passes that enable him to show his sprinting abilities. Dennis was back to give a capital game, especially in the second half. Rennie distributed better than he shot, and Woods was responsible for much skilful initiation, while Yardley was thrustful as ever.

For Swindon, Nash was a reliable goal-keeper, Dickenson a sturdy and clean defender, and the halves were better in attack than in defence. Morris took the eye forward as usual, but rather because his colleagues were content to play to him than to trust themselves.

There were 7,000 spectators.

LUTON TOWN	1
SWINDON TOWN	0

LUTON. — Abbott; Kingham, Richards; Reynolds, Ramage, Millar; Pointon, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Dennis.

SWINDON. — Nash; Dickenson, Wyllie; Low, Humphries, Archer, Denyer, Roberts, Morris, Eddleston, Walker.

Referee.—Mr. P. E. Elphee, Maidstone.

LUTON TOWN	2
SWINDON TOWN	1