

Coventry Beaten in Stern Struggle.

(By "CRUSADER.")

BY their second consecutive success at home LUTON TOWN managed to make a big move up the table of their division, the bogey of the wooden spoon remained with Torquay United, and COVENTRY CITY, the opponents of the Town, dropped so much nearer to the bottom as to justify their qualms as to the future. The victory was not too convincing, and yet showed the Town in a mood sufficient to increase the hope that they will not suffer a fall below their present status of sixth from the bottom of the League. Their display was full of confidence and courage, but there was a lack of co-operation that augured ill at times. Thanks to the vigilance and reliability of the rearguard, however, these fears were dispelled, and the result was merited on the one fact alone—that the Town defence was better than the City's. Of course, the two games in which this defence has been under fire, have been at home, but if the middle line can be stabilised, there need be little fear of the backs doing their part in away games.

THOROUGH DEFENDERS.

The foundation of victory was laid in the first half, when the Town scored twice without response. Actually the City had as much of the ball as the Town, and were clever in the disposal of it in midfield, but so thorough was the work of Graham and Richards that comparatively few shots troubled the Town goal keeper. The Coventry forwards slipped the home middle men time and again, but they were up against a desperate determination in the rear, and they were goal-less at the interval. Luton's goals were scored by RENNIE after 8 minutes, and by YARDLEY after 26 minutes. The first was inaugurated by Fulton, but practically every forward had a part in the subsequent proceedings, and Rennie's shot was taken at the right moment when Newton and his backs were uncertain as to the point from which the shot might be expected. The second goal was initiated by Dennis, with a clever move in conjunction with Nunn, and the ball travelled from left to right among a puzzled and frantic crowd of defenders before it was tapped to Yardley, and his shot, like Rennie's was a fast grounder that went right away from Newton.

NARROWEST ESCAPE.

There were several warm tussles in the Coventry goal area, thanks to the persistence of the Town forwards, who were thrustful if not cohesive, and Newton made some splendid saves, while his charge escaped in extraordinary fashion on two or three occasions. The Town goal's narrowest escape in this first half was before a score had been made. Brown ventured a low drive following this rebuff of the Coventry forwards, and the ball seemed bound to get home, when it struck the foot of Richards and was deflected just wide of the upright. Interval score:—

LUTON	2
COVENTRY	0

The second half found Coventry putting more thrust into their attacks, as well as a good deal of skill, and in three minutes WARD got the chance to rush between the backs, go close to Abbott, and then shoot into the net.

In the course of a long spell of pressure by the Coventry forwards and halves, in which the Town halves never seemed to get a grip of the game, the home goalkeeper and backs were thoroughly tested. Abbott made several good saves, but Graham and Richards were the main barriers to the City's liveliness bringing reward. They played a fast incisive game, but shots from close range were taboo, and so the time came when the Town had a turn. They made good use of it, and after several chances had been missed, Banks paved the way for the third goal for the Town. He won a flag-kick, and, jointly with Wood, baffled the Coventry defence by putting in a nice centre that cleared the crowd, and NUNN dashed in to complete the scoring.

The Coventry goal had further narrow escapes soon afterwards, for Woods headed against the bar, and Rennie hit the upright, but the end came without further downfall. Coventry made one or two bids, and were game to the end.

THE PLAYERS.

For the Town Abbott did his work well, and there was enough awkward stuff to make him think Graham and Richards put up a glorious game, and were a great pair. The middle men wavered in the early part of the second half, though playing well before then, and later. In the forward line all were hard workers, and Nunn came back to his form of the early part of the season.

The City's best were Newton, Dinsdale, Brown, Johnson and Barnes.

There were 8,000 spectators. Result:—

LUTON TOWN	3
COVENTRY CITY	1

LUTON.—Abbott; Graham, Richards; Black, Fulton, Dennis; Banks, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Nunn.

COVENTRY. — Newton; Houldey, Hunter; Brown, Dinsdale, Gardiner; Johnson, Widdowson, Ward, Ramage, Barnes.