

LUTON'S POINTS.

PLUCK AND ENERGY BEAT BRIGHTON.

Clean Sheet For Abbott.

By Crusader.

IF we could rely upon LUTON TOWN achieving a similar degree of good fortune in all their games as in their first of the season there would be promotion. That is too much to hope for, but if we could rely upon the team playing as well there would be no qualms about the wooden spoon, as was the affliction last year. Their football was not on the same scientific plan as that of BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION, but they were so earnest and hard-working that they pulled off a victory that was generally unexpected.

ALBION'S STARS.

When one places the Albion on a higher pedestal it is practically because of the skilful play of two men in the forward line, acquisitions this season—Kirkwood of Sheffield Wednesday, and Townley of the 'Spurs. But for the play of these two the Albion would have been not a bit better than the Town. Their defence was not sounder, and apart from the powerful play of Mooney there was nothing in the middle line that could be accounted superior to the Town's line. Popular opinion was that both teams were poor stuff, but that was a rather harsh judgment for an opening match.

THE FACTORS.

The result was anticipated only by the most optimistic supporters of the Town, and in Brighton there was a great deal of confidence that the Albion would open their programme with a victory. From one who saw the Albion practise games I learned that there was practically no hope for the Town, but energy and courage play big parts in football these days, and these were the main factors that enabled the Town to lower the Albion colours, if not decisively, at least effectively.

POOR SHOTS.

The Town gave a fairly good display as a side in the opening half. They did a lot more attacking, and if there had been a little better shooting they might well have had a substantial lead. Williams was more often called upon, and his goal had narrower escapes than did Abbott's, but it only fell once, YARDLEY heading a fine goal from a corner-kick taken by Dennis after 35 minutes play. The Albion had chances, but were just as faulty in front of goal as were the Town, and Abbott had no lengthy period of test to undergo. Still, Edmonds should have scored at least once.

LEADERS LACKING.

The second half found the Albion improve a good deal in general play, and while the Town defenders shaped better than at the start, the forwards could not get going so well, and there were lengthy periods when the Albion surged in the Town penalty area. Edmonds was a great sinner in the matter of shooting, for Kirkwood and Townley each made nice openings for him. At the other end Rennie was unable to pull out a good shot when chances came his way, and so both sides suffered from ineptitude in attack.

DETERIORATION.

Play often deteriorated to a mere scramble; the kicking was poor, and there were few real attempts at combination on either side.

Mooney and his two inside wingers worked very hard, and from them came nearly all the raids on the Town goal, while at the other end most of the trouble to the defence was due either to the craft of Woods or to the forcefulness of the home halves. It was a pity that Fulton did not measure his passes better, as he broke up time and again the movements of the Albion van, only to limit the possibilities of his good work by poor feeding.

HURRY AND SCURRY.

Black, who had been of considerable assistance to his forwards in the first half, also fell away, and Millar was generally the man to initiate a decent move from the middle line. It was no lack of effort or will that spoiled the Town's game in the second half, but usually the energy was misapplied, with the result that the Albion defenders cleared their lines without a lot of anxiety. There was too much hurry and scurry about the work, and so the defenders were seldom left unemployed for very long.

DEFENCE—

Brighton were greatly disappointed, but there was no excess of glee among the Town players, and they will have to bend their efforts towards combination before they achieve any striking success. Abbott did very well, and Kingham and Richards did not let the side down. Their play was not of the safest, but it was useful, and merited extended trial. The halves I have mentioned, and it is clear they will have to do a bit better for their forwards in order to retain their places. The ability is latent in Fulton, though he has not the masterful reasonableness of Mooney.

—AND ATTACK.

An improvement in the intermediate line will mean a correspondent effectiveness forward, and that must not be lost sight of in dealing with the forward inefficiency of Saturday. Every player in the attack can do better, and will when they have played a match or two. Indeed, I expect an improvement at Northampton to-night. Rennie has no great pretensions to leadership, but is a great shot when rightly served. His chief lack at the moment is confidence in himself, and he alone can rectify that. Yardley is a determined worker, and was all go and bustle as usual, but threw the line out of gear at times in the second half by his roving propensities. Daly got few chances to show off his paces, and the left wing was the better.

BRIGHTON

Brighton look a well-balanced side, and they will be among the top notchers at the end of the season if they can remedy the poor marksmanship from which they suffered on Saturday. The late arrival of Brighton through a railway accident at Worthing may have affected their play in the early stages, but they had their opportunities in the second half, and should have levelled the scores.

LUTON. — Abbott; Kingham, Richards; Black, Fulton, Millar; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Dennis.

BRIGHTON. — Williams; Jenkins, Curran; Wilkinson, Mooney, Little, Turnbull, Kirkwood, Edmonds, Townley, Wilson.

Referee:—Capt. A. Prince Cox.