

LUTON LOSE AT BRIGHTON

TALE OF MISSED CHANCES.

By Crusader.

IT is difficult to know whether to praise the magnificent goalkeeping of Webb, the reserve goalkeeper of BRIGHTON AND HOVE ALBION, or to blame the ineptitude of the LUTON TOWN forwards for the defeat the latter sustained at Hove last Saturday. This was the first game Webb had played for the senior team of the Albion this season, but he gave a really fine display, and undoubtedly saved his side from a heavy defeat. On the other hand there were times when he should not have had a chance to show his prowess, and there were at least five times when he had little but hope and luck to enable him to defeat the projects of the Town forwards.

The game went very largely in favour of the Town. The halves and backs were usually on top of the efforts of the Albion forwards, and long before the only goal of the game was scored by KIRKWOOD, with a clever header from a free-kick by Wilkinson, the Town should have had a good lead. The general approach play was all too good for the Albion halves, who were kept on the run, and though they gave the ball plenty of boot, almost every time the Town forwards got possession they made trouble for Webb and his backs. Before the Albion had a real look-in the Town should have taken the lead. Roe and Walters tested Webb, with good shots, the latter's being a fast ground drive that brought the goalkeeper down very quickly, but he gathered safely, and cleared. A minute or two later Roe made a perfect opening for the centre-forward, who took the ball right up to the goalkeeper and then lost it, for Webb flung himself at the feet of Walters, and after a hard tussle managed to get the ball behind for a corner-kick. Daly was presented with a grand chance by Walters, but shot straight at Webb.

When Brighton got going they were dangerous in front of goal, but their attacks were comparatively rare. There were many scrimmages in the Albion goal area, and several corners were forced. During one furious assault Webb managed to get the ball away somehow, and two or three corners followed, during which the goalkeeper got the ball when all seemed lost, and clung to it under a heap of players. It was the narrowest escape of the game, but near the interval either Woods or Walters should have scored when right through, but neither took the chance, and at the change of ends the score read:—

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 1 goal
LUTON TOWN nil

The second half was almost a repetition of the first after 15 minutes, during which the exchanges were fast and even, and the Albion tested Abbott with good shots. It was a fine pass by Walters that brought the revival of the Town again. Daly went right through and again sent the ball direct to Webb, who got it away. The Town practically took charge of the game after this, the middle line were playing grandly, and the forwards going through the home halves with ease, but often as the ball was in the danger zone, very few good attempts were made. Once Roe appeared a certain scorer when he drove in a great shot at the farther corner of the goal, but Webb threw himself across the goal and managed to turn the ball just round the upright. Now and then Abbott had to get a move on, and once he brought off a great save from Hopkins, but in the last quarter of an hour the Town made tremendous efforts, the halves keeping the forwards up to the scratch, and feeding them with nice passes, but shots were few and far between. The Albion defenders were continually kicking into touch or anywhere for safety, and though practically the whole of the Town team took some part in the attack, and Harris and Fraser made a clever passing run in the last minute of the game, the end came without further score.

Abbott and his backs were sound, and no fault could be found with this department, for all three played fine football, and Graham gave his best game. The halves were far superior to the Albion's middle line, doing exceptionally well as a line, and showing much individual cleverness.

The forwards responded finely in the open, but when at close quarters there was not a marksman among them, and chances were missed with amazing frequency. Daly and Bedford did well when the ball came to them right, and Roe showed much pretty footwork; Woods initiated strong attacks, but none of the three inside forwards could find the target, and Rennie was badly missed.

There were 7,000 spectators.

BRIGHTON & HOVE ALBION 1 goal
LUTON TOWN nil

BRIGHTON.—Webb; Smith, Chamberlain; Wilkinson, Mooney, Edmonds; Farrell, Kirkwood, Cook, Hopkins, Wilson.

LUTON.—Abbott; Graham, Harris; Black, Fulton, Fraser; Daly, Roe, Walters, Woods, Bedford.

Referee.—Capt. A. Prince Cox, Barnes.