

WALSALL WIN AT LUTON.

Town Forwards Fail in Finishing Power.

A Gallant Defence.

(By CRUSADER).

WALSALL	3
LUTON TOWN	2

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Richards; Fulton, Clark, Fraser; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.

WALSALL.—Biddlestone; Walters (F.), Houldey; Groves, Helliwell, Bradford; Harris, Roe, Walters (A.), Eyres, Murphy.

Referee: Mr. F. H. Burton, Leicester.

Better football we have seen often, but even in their successful match at Watford the Town did not play so well as a team as in this losing game at home. Possibly this improvement had something to do with the defeat, for it seemed to me as if there were a tendency to take the opposition lightly when they had been kept on the defensive so long. That was why MURPHY was able to slip through and open the score for the visitors with the first real shot at goal they had. That was after 25 minutes' play, but there must have been a score of shots, and half-a-dozen narrow escapes of the Walsall goal in that period.

EYRES got the second. He pounced on a rebound as Harford punched away, and with a promptness that was praiseworthy he had the town goalkeeper well beaten. Very little was seen of the visiting forwards in the succeeding play before the Town scored through a penalty kick, awarded for "hands" against Helliwell. RENNIE gave Biddlestone no chance whatever with this shot.

RIGHT TACTICS.

The "Saddlers" got another stroke of fortune very quickly. Walters made an effort to break through, and bothered the Town defenders. Richards forced him to part with the ball, and it travelled aimlessly to the right. Harford did the right thing in dashing out, but HARRIS, who had closed in, had a start of the goalkeeper, and just managed to get there first, and kicked as the goalkeeper struck at the ball, which went lobbing gently into the net to give Walsall another unexpected goal. Of course, the visitors played desperately to retain their lead, and there was little method in their game, except to keep the ball as far away from the Town players as possible. However, the Town supporters were not unduly pessimistic when the interval came:

WALSALL	3
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Quite twenty minutes elapsed in the second half before Walsall got anything like a shot at goal. Once Rennie went right through and failed unaccountably to beat Biddlestone. Then the ball came across from the Town left, and was lifted to Daly, who steadied himself and shot with great power. Biddlestone was beaten, but, by some freak of positioning, Bradford was at the other end of the goal, and the ball nearly knocked his head off. YARDLEY snapped it up and scored with a fast, low shot.

ALL HANDS TO THE PUMP.

With only one goal now to be wiped off the Town played splendidly, and attacked so persistently that there were often eight, and once nine, of the visiting players in their own penalty area.

Rennie missed another gift, and had wretched luck with two or three grand efforts, while Woods and Yardley pegged away.

The visitors had virtually only one chance in this half, and would have scored but for a glorious save by Harford, who dived and turned the ball round the upright when Eyres shot well. Little was seen of their forwards as an attack, and the game resolved into a continuous struggle between the Town forwards and the Walsall defence. Biddlestone and his braves withstood the fire, and to them was due the great meed of praise when the whistle went.

Mr. Burton controlled the game well, and, result apart, the 8,000 spectators had good entertainment.