

TWO FALLS FOR LUTON TOWN

DEFEATED AT MERTHYR AND AT HOME.

By Crusader.

At Merthyr on Saturday:—

MERTHYR TOWN 3
LUTON TOWN 1

MERTHYR.—Woodward (J.); Moyle, Scott; Woodward (T.), Moore, Fletcher; Cruickshank, Sugarman, Parker, G. Thomas, Slack.

LUTON.—Banes; Richards, Smith; Fulton, Clark, Fraser; Daly, Birch, Rennie, Drinnan, Yardley.

Referee.—Mr. C. F. Moon, Bristol.

At Luton on Monday:—

CLAPTON ORIENT 2
LUTON TOWN 1

LUTON. — Banes; Richards, Smith; Walker, Clark, Fraser; Daly, Birch, Rennie, Drinnan, Yardley.

CLAPTON. — E. M. Garland-Wells; Broadbent, Lyons; Lawrence, Galbraith, Little; Vanner, Edmunds, Tricker, Mills, Townley.

Referee:—Mr. W. J. Lewington, Croydon.

FOUR points were fully expected from Luton Town's games of Saturday and Monday. Through a grave falling off in the form of most of the players all four points were lost. Merthyr Town, who seem destined to hold the wooden spoon, gained their third victory of the season at Luton's expense, and their first success at Merthyr since September 2nd, while the Orient gained a lucky victory less by their own merit than through sheer ineptitude and an execrable exhibition by the Town.

At Merthyr the factors in defeat were probably the long journey that had to be made on the day, and an overweening confidence by the Town team. At Luton there was a lack of confidence and a complete absence of team spirit, and after the Orient had seen their two goals lead reduced, they managed with ten men to keep their goal secure, though the handicap was the more keenly felt since it was their goalkeeper who had to leave the field.

The defence was not so sound as in previous games this year, especially on Monday evening, but the trouble could not be restricted to them; the forwards were puerile, and it is doubtful if a Luton attack has been so incapable for years as on Monday night.

Summing up the two games, it might well be said that Banes, Richards, Fraser and Drinnan were the only

players whose reputations were not impaired. Of the rest little need be said except that they were triers, but were well below the standard they have reached in recent games. Their efforts were dull and spineless, and could not fail to have a marked effect on the supporters.

AT MERTHYR.

At Merthyr on Saturday the Town suffered defeat largely because of the wrong tactics. They kept the ball too close against an eager and energetic team, playing desperately to end a long and disastrous spell. If the Town forwards had finished as well as they played in midfield they would have won, but they failed to consummate the approach work, and paid the penalty.

The only goal of the first half was scored almost on the stroke of half-time by SUGARMAN, and CRUICKSHANK got a grand second goal within half a minute of the re-start. DRINNAN got through for the Town in a strong revival, but SUGARMAN scored again before the end, and though Merthyr were hard pressed in the closing stages, they kept the Town at bay.

AT LUTON.

On Monday there was a disastrous start. for SMITH put the ball past Banes after calling the goalkeeper out of his charge within a minute of the start. Luton played spiritedly after this, but chances were missed, and the Orient defence put up a stubborn display, and, try as they would, Luton could not beat Garland-Wells. Birch was unlucky once when a hard drive was saved by the goalkeeper, who was hit by the ball as he advanced, though the marksman might have placed the ball with much better result.

In the second half, with Yardley and Birch changing places, the Town made a good start, but a breakaway found the defence scattered, and EDMUNDS scored the second goal for the visitors. DRINNAN soon afterwards hustled Garland-Wells and the ball into the net, and the goalkeeper had to be assisted from the field, Townley deputising. Luton had nearly all the play, and the Orient goal had many narrow escapes, but survived, and won the match.