

THREE OUT OF FOUR.

LUTON BRING A POINT FROM SWINDON.

Bristol Rovers Beaten.

By Crusader.

At Swindon on Saturday:—

SWINDON TOWN 1 goal
LUTON TOWN 1 "

SWINDON.—Nash; Penn, Girvan; Low, Bew, Braithwaite; Denyer, Dowdall, Morris, Roberts, M'Cartney.

LUTON.—Banes; Richards, Smith; Fraser, Clark, Millar; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Drinnan, McInnes.

Referee.—Captain A. Prince Cox, Barnes.

At Luton.

LUTON TOWN 3
BRISTOL ROVERS 0

LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Richards, Smith; Fraser, Clark, Millar; Daly, Yardley, Rennie, Drinnan, McInnes.

BRISTOL ROVERS.—Densley; Barton, Haydon; Findley, Cosgrove, Hamilton; Reay, Forbes, Phillips, Murray, Shaw.

Referee.—Mr. A. G. Price, London.

IN the main we may be well satisfied with Luton Town's results in these two games, and especially with a point from a visit to Swindon. It was a bit easier on Monday night, perhaps, though not much, for there should have been quite as big a margin of success at Swindon. The team as a whole is playing very much better than before Christmas, and if the forward line could maintain the standard of their game with Plymouth Argyle they would rapidly put that unfortunate goal average to rights. It would have been remedied had the finishing been better in these two games. The rearguard is as sound as any in the League at the present moment, and with Fraser adapting himself so well to the right-half position, and Millar jumping back to his best form—I am not sure that these three games have not been better than any three in his career—the middle line is far more reliable. Clark's fault is inconsistency, but he has no rival for the place, and is twice as good as in the early part of the season. He seems to play better when the demand is greater and, apart from an occasional dilly-dally when a clearance is required, his work is splendid. In the Swindon game he was moderate; in Monday's game he was most masterful at periods, and his breaking-up and his construction work were almost brilliant, but then he would play on the soft pedal for a time.

Weakness in attack alone prevents the team reaching the level of any club in the Division. It is not beyond remedy, either. Daly is playing very much better; Rennie is getting back his confidence; Yardley and Drinnan are doing better than ever, and McInnes has good football in his boots. Now and then he reveals flashes of brilliance, but that is not enough, and if he could but make the best of Drinnan's skilful nursing results would be greatly improved. It is simply deficiency in the last stage that prevents the team gathering bonus every match.

Team spirit, skill, pace and stamina are there when they are on their mettle, and they need show only the all-round quality they produced against the Argyle, and this month will end happily. There were only 4,000 present on Monday night. Three times that number should witness the game on Saturday.

SHARED POINTS AT SWINDON.

At Swindon on Saturday, before 3,800 spectators.

THIS was a moderate game. The poor state of the ground made combination difficult, and many good movements of the Town forwards were frustrated by the tricks the turf played with the ball. Still, they had the better chances, their attacks, for the greater part of the game, brought them into the neighbourhood of Nash far more frequently than the home side got near to Banes, but there was a distinct disinclination to force home their assaults.

Neither goalkeeper had a great deal of work, but Banes made three very fine saves, two being at full length when the ball seemed likely to beat him close to the post. On the other hand, Nash was usually in the right place when shots came his way, but saw the ball fly over the bar and past the posts many times when it should have gone into the net. The defenders on each side were generally too powerful for the forwards.

Swindon had the advantage in the opening stages, but later the Town had more of the play, and before the interval arrived were playing like a winning side. The ball was often in the Swindon goal area, and travelled across the mouth of the goal in ominous fashion, but not a shot reached the target, though one or two went very close, and once Clark just skimmed the bar with a red-hot shot from a free kick.

The second-half was less than two minutes old when RENNIE opened the Town's account with a fine goal. Daly made the advance, beating the defence in a magnificent sprint along the right wing, and he was cutting in when Braithwaite swept his legs from under him within a few inches of the penalty line. Daly dropped the ball across to the left, and Drinnan returned it perfectly for the Town centre-forward to

take one of his first-timers, and Nash scarcely saw the ball until he picked it out of the net.

After such an encouraging restart, even better things were expected, but while their midfield play continued to harass and puzzle the home halves there was not enough fire in their work to overcome the backs. Swindon's forwards had to be content with raids, and usually these were stopped by the backs, though there was a series of thrills following a determined attack which won two or three corners.

Swindon's equalising goal came after a Town left wing rush had been negated. The ball went down the middle to Morris, who was promptly tackled; he managed to give the ball to M'CARTNEY, who had closed in, and that player went on to beat Banes with a fast high shot that, in transit to the net, struck the bar. It was a fine goal, nevertheless, and rightly fell to the home team's most dangerous forward.

The closing stages, in which Swindon were without Low, their right half, consequent upon an injury when charging at Millar, were dull. The visitors made nearly all the play, and the backs were up on the half-way line, sweeping the ball into the danger zone, but the forwards could not find that marksmanship that had beaten the Argyle, and so they had to be content with a division of the spoils.

TWO FOR DRINNAN.

Monday night's game was similar to that at Swindon on the run of the play, but the Town did not get on the target better. Densley, the Rovers' young goalkeeper, saved his side from a crushing defeat, for he might well have been beaten half a dozen times before the change of ends. He made no mistake, and though he had some good fortune he deserved it.

Densley made many fine saves, and a considerable number of corner kicks fell to Luton before the goal fell to DALY. The goalkeeper had just brought off a wonderful save from McInnes, who had an easy chance, but could not direct the ball past the custodian, who went down and turned it aside for the right-winger to return it into the net.

There was no other goal in this half, but Densley made fine saves from every member of the Town attack. Rennie should have registered twice, Daly had a fast drive rebound from the goalkeeper as he advanced, and Yardley and Drinnan each went close with good shots and headers. At the other end Banes did well to save fine shots by Shaw and Phillips, and once he could not retain his hold on the ball until the third attempt.

The combination of the Town was much better than that of the visitors in this half, but it deteriorated after the change of ends, and though the better side for the greater part of the game, mainly because they kept the ball down better than the Rovers managed it, there was an obvious lack of driving power when they got to close quarters, as they so often did.

The second half had been in progress only five minutes when DRINNAN scored the second goal. In this case Daly had sprinted clear, and then drove in a very hard, ground shot, which Densley managed to thrust out, and before any of his colleagues could get the ball away the Town inside-left was on the ball and contrived to get it into the net. Then Rennie missed a gift when he had only Densley to beat at three yards' range, for he miskicked; Fraser went right through and then shot wide, and Daly failed to keep the ball down when he had outpaced the backs.

The Rovers had a spell, and their forwards gave some trouble, but Banes fielded everything very coolly when required, and the best shot from a Rover came from Forbes, who missed by less than a foot with a fine effort. Phillips tried to bore through, but was well held, and then the Town had the better of the exchanges again. The forwards could not penetrate. Rennie and Daly failed with good chances, and corners followed in quick succession. About three minutes from the end DRINNAN took a shot from over 20 yards' range, and the ball passed just inside the upright.