

ONE POINT OF SIX.

LUTON TOWN'S POOR EASTER RESULTS.

Heavy Defeats in London.

(By CRUSADER.)

At Luton, on Good Friday.

LUTON TOWN 2
CRYSTAL PALACE 2
Scorers.—LUTON: Yardley, Drinnan.
PALACE: Simpson, Butler.
LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Richards, Smith;
Fraser, Clark, Millar; Boylen, Yardley,
Rennie, Drinnan, Hutchinson.
CRYSTAL PALACE.—Imrie; Wetherby,
Crilly; Hamilton, Wilde, Greener; Harry,
Turner, Simpson, Butler, Clarke.
Referee.—Mr. T. W. Chamberlain, Forest
Gate.

At Homerton, on Saturday

CLAPTON ORIENT 6
LUTON TOWN 1
Scorers.—LUTON: Yardley.
ORIENT: Jack (2), Edmunds (2),
Tricker (2).
CLAPTON ORIENT.—Woods; Morley,
Lyons; Lawrence, Galbraith, Broadbey,
Vanner, Jack, Edmunds, Tricker,
Townley.
LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Kingham,
Smith; Fraser, Clark, Millar; Boylen,
Birch, Yardley, Drinnan, Hutchinson.
Referee: — Mr. E. Beard, Wolver-
hampton.

On Monday

CRYSTAL PALACE 4
LUTON TOWN 1
Scorers. — PALACE: Simpson (2).
CLARKE, Simpson (penalty).
LUTON.—Rennie (penalty).
CRYSTAL PALACE.—Imrie; Wetherby,
Crilly; Hamilton, Barrie, Greener; Harry,
Turner, Simpson, Charlesworth, Clarke.
LUTON TOWN.—Banes; Kingham, Smith;
Fraser, Clark, Millar; Hutchinson, Yard-
ley, Rennie, Drinnan, McInnes.
Referee.—Mr. J. W. Chamberlain, Ilford.

ONE wee chick from a possible six is the result of Luton Town's hatch of Easter eggs. It is not much to cackle about, perhaps, and yet, discounting the game on Friday, when conditions were so bad, I am not afraid to say that on Saturday and Monday in the games in which they were heavily defeated, they played more attractive football than in many of their successes, and more scientific football than either the Orient or the Palace. In the Saturday game they were defeated by superior marksmanship and stronger defensive play after they had exhibited the greater skill in the open; at Selhurst the deciding factor again was opportunism plus a considerable excess of vigour. The Palace are not merely a robust team; they exceed the limits of decency, and flagrant fouls are committed in a way that only the experienced player can detect. The push of a boot or a knee and the jerk of an elbow or a head at a time when only the man who has suffered it knows that it is foul. I don't like the Palace methods—backs and halves in particular. Still, the directness of their methods, if not so entertaining as those of the Town, were more fruitful.

This game at Selhurst was marked by a severe accident to Kingham, whose rib was fractured. Kingham will not be able to play again this season, of course. It is a pity, for though he was not happy at Homerton, he was playing magnificently at Selhurst, and it speaks a great deal for his pluck that the accident occurred in the first half, and yet he played to the end with the exception of a brief respite when he got a severe rap on his injured side in the second half.

In Friday's game Richards was hurt, receiving damage to the eye, and the leg, and it is to be hoped he will be fit to play against Coventry. The chief trouble has been the inefficiency of the wing players, for after splendid defensive play and clever inside forward combination, the structure of attack has been undone by the inability of the wingers to carry on. If an attack is fashioned with care and carried through as designed, even though the final shot falls, there is not much harm, but when an assault is broken up at the moment of ripening, then the result is a heavy load on the men in the rear. Time after time in Saturday's and Monday's games the ball went with delightful accuracy to the wingers, but they failed, and the consequence was a swift counter-thrust before the Town halves were back in position. It is regrettable, for I know of no two youngsters who try harder and who more deserve to succeed than Boylen and Hutchinson. They are the right type of young player in personal behaviour and courage, and everybody will regret that they have not proved successful in their chances with the first team.

The general play has been very good, and has evoked favourable comment from the emissaries of First Division clubs foraging for players. It would not surprise me if the Town managed to do a little business before the end of the season or during the early days of the close season, though I am not in a position to indicate any particular player or any particular club that fancies him. It is quite clear that if football were not so vigorous they would hold a much better position in the League.

With two more games to play, one home and one away, three points are required to average a point per game for the season, though the goal average is very much on the debit side.

GOOD FRIDAY GAME.

In the home match against Crystal Palace on Good Friday, the Town had to be content with a draw. They were in a deficit of two goals at the end of half-an-hour, SIMPSON and BUTLER having scored for the Palace. The second goal was scored while Richards was receiving attention owing to an injured eye, and though the Palace had been the more dangerous side, the Town had been unfortunate, for Rennie had hit the post, and two or three good chances had been missed. With the return of the captain the Town had much the better of the play, and Imrie kept goal finely. He was beaten by YARDLEY after he had saved brilliantly from Rennie, but before the change of ends, he should have been beaten again by Rennie, who had dribbled close in, but a powerful shot went straight to the goalkeeper.

However, soon after the change of ends DRINNAN headed a great goal, following a free kick by Smith, and in this half the Town should have made sure of the points. The Palace came near on several occasions, but the danger was at the other end as a rule, and Imrie again kept goal splendidly, especially in the closing stages. Chances were missed, however, and the lack of efficient wingers was a big handicap.

AT HOMERTON.

The result suggests a debacle in the visit to Clapton Orient on Saturday, but the little following of the Town saw a game in which the one-sidedness was merely in the matter of scoring. There were frequencies in which the Town played high-class football, especially in the second half, and from the aspect of sustained attack they showed much more skill. The Orient were the better side for about 20 minutes, but their goal should have fallen, as also should the Town's, during that period. The opening goal came from JACK, who met a

free kick with a first-time shot that gave Banes no chance. EDMUNDS got the second with a fine shot from the edge of the penalty area, a distance from which the Town forwards were disinclined to shoot. Woods made a few good saves, but the opportunism of the Orient merited the lead at half-time.

The second half found the Town attacking a great deal, but they could not press home their efforts. On the other hand the Orient, encouraged by their successful shooting in the first half, blazed away to good purpose. Woods made a wonderful save from Yardley, and then the Orient broke away, and the ball rebounded from Smith to JACK, who would otherwise have been offside, and he ran in to score a simple goal. Again the Orient goal was besieged without capitulating, and a corner followed a great save by Banes. From the flag-lick Banes saved again, but could only direct the ball to EDMUNDS, who scored the fourth. Once more the Orient goal survived in extraordinary fashion, shots being rained in, but then came the inevitable breakaway, a speculative shot by TRICKER, and the ball beat Banes, hit the post and went into the net. Yet again the Town pressed tremendously, but another dash by Vanner and a good centre enabled TRICKER to score again. The Town pegged away to the end, the halves and inside forwards playing cleverly, but the shooting was poor until YARDLEY got his reward with a splendid effort. More pressure followed, but Woods was not beaten again.

AT SELHURST.

In this game, also, the Town played the cleverer football, and had the team been well balanced in attack the result must have been different, but excellent work by the inside forwards and the middle men was brought to grief by the weak response from the wing men. There was only one goal in the first half, and that was a fine effort by SIMPSON, who received from a big kick following severe pressure by the Town, and he and Harry went through to success. The Town had chances, McInnes missing one splendid opening made by Rennie, while the latter once skimmed the bar with a grand drive.

In the second period, SIMPSON again got away with Harry as his partner, and though the centre-forward appeared to be just offside, he netted, and the goal was allowed. The Town responded gamely, and when Yardley was pushed in the goalmouth by the Palace goalkeeper, a penalty kick was converted by RENNIE. Clarke soon retaliated for the Palace, and shortly before the end, following narrow escapes of the Palace goal, SIMPSON scored from a penalty kick for "hands" against Fraser. The Palace goal had another escape when Wetherby headed out as Drinnan shot at an empty goal, the full back darting back just in time.

It was not a pleasant game, the Palace playing up to their customary vigorous standard, and their hustling methods were successful, though not comparable with the Town's skilful movements as a spectacle.

There were nearly 20,000 spectators.