

LUTON'S FINAL STRUGGLE.

Gillingham's Fierce Fight of No Avail.

(By "CRUSADER").

GILLINGHAM made a fierce effort to escape from the two lowest positions of the League table when they entertained LUTON TOWN on Saturday. It was to no purpose. As both Bristol Rovers and Torquay United managed to win, the Kentish Club were finally coupled with Merthyr as being compelled to seek re-election. Once upon a time the Gillingham Club voted against the Town when they were in a similar plight, and I fancy that if the vote were left to the Town players Gillingham would not be in the League next season.

It was the roughest match for a long time, for there were several of the home players that threw all reason and caution to the winds, and it is no exaggeration to say that their tackling became something like attacks upon the safety of limb. For a time the Town players went all out, and had much the better of football; then some of them began to retaliate, and eventually most of them felt that it was not worth while, and their efforts were perfunctory and lacking the punch that would have enabled them to draw level. Perhaps this was just as well, for a bonus would not recompense for a painful close season.

Gillingham's two goals were scored after the change of ends and came very quickly. They were due to blunders by the Town defenders. In the first instance several players "stood at ease" while CHEESMUR took a pass and went through to beat Banes. In the second Banes clean missed a centre from the right wing, and SPEED managed to get his head to the ball and send it into the net.

It would have surprised none had there been two or three penalty-kicks against Gillingham, but in two instances the referee was unsighted when "hands" against Gillingham was obvious to those with a clear view, but in the third case Drinnan was very badly tripped after he had skipped past four opponents in a mazy run, and was on the point of shooting from six or seven yards range. Still, the Town goal had some narrow escapes, for there was a good deal of carelessness apparent.

In the late stages, when the home team were two goals ahead, there was seen the best football of the game. Brennan was the leading light among the home players, and showed delightful footwork, and on the Town side forwards and halves combined in really clever fashion, but the work fizzled out when they got within range owing to the bashing methods of the defenders. Robertson excepted.

GILLINGHAM	2
LUTON TOWN	nil

GILLINGHAM. — Rutherford; Robertson, Bishop; Beacham, Collins, Ellis; W. J. Jones, Brennan, Cheesmur, Bethell, J. Speed.

LUTON. — Banes; Richards, Smith; Fulton, Clark, Millar; Boylen, Birch, Yardley, Drinnan, Sheldon.

Referee.—Mr. E. Beards, Wolverhampton.