

CRACKED UP

LUTON'S HEAVY DEFEAT AT HOME

(By CRUSADER)

IT was a sad story on Monday afternoon, when the Orient came to Luton and trounced the Town by five goals to nil in the postponed League game. The Orient had been knocked out of the Cup Competition, and so they had a rest on Saturday, and took the field much fresher than the Town. Nevertheless, the Town had so much of the play that they should have won the match. That sounds a rather tall order in view of the margin of goals, but anyone of the two thousand spectators will say that the balance of play was always with the home side, and four of the Orient's goal were simply the result of breakaway.

THE reason for the failure of the Town was that they could not recover quickly, and this particularly applied to the halves. When the ball was in front of them they were always cleverer than the Orient, and that gave them such a big advantage on the run of the game, but the extra nippiness of the Orient defenders enabled them to baffle the Town forwards time and again when a goal seemed certain. To this must be added the very fine goal-keeping of Emery, who can hardly have played better than in this match.

THE Orient rearguard, however, found the Town inside forwards inclined to walk the ball through, and if ever there were a lesson in first-time passing, it came when the Orient forwards got away. Three of their goals came as a result of this style of play, and the other two could be debited against Jim Imrie, who made a very bad mistake in each case when the fourth and fifth goals were scored. Until that came, there was always a possibility of the Town drawing level, so well were they playing, but that simply placed the issue beyond any shadow of doubt.

THE Town did much more of the pressing for the first ten minutes, and though the Orient made one or two runs and were dangerous, the Town pressed so continuously and so heavily that they had come close to scoring several times. Then came the dash to the other end, the ball lifted across, and MILLS, sharp enough to size up the possibilities, and to nip in and score at the second attempt after Imrie had unexpectedly saved the first drive from very close range.

NOW and then the Orient made raids during the next twenty minutes, but the Town did nearly all the attacking, and time after time the ball was kicked out of the Orient goal-mouth just when it appeared certain that the equaliser would come. Emery made magnificent saves, twice from Tait and also from Turner, but there was a lack of punch in the Town front line. Then BEST broke clean through, and ran in to shoot past Imrie as he came out. A few minutes later he repeated the performance, and so the change of ends found the Town with a heavy deficit.

ORIENT	3
TOWN	nil

CROSSING over without a retirement, the Town at once assumed the

aggressive, and how the Orient goal escaped downfall was a mystery. Emery made many splendid saves, and time after time the ball was scrambled off the goal-line, the backs doing very fine work. The Orient halves and inside forwards had to fall back to assist, and the Town forwards and halves played gallantly, penning in the visitors. The reward came when, after nice work on the right wing, Tait sent the ball into the centre, and RENNIE fired into the net a great goal.

THE Town came again, and corner after corner was conceded by the visitors, and some of them should have borne fruit, but Cupit could not get the ball across from the flag, and though one or two scuffles ensued in the goal-mouth when Keen sent the ball in, the main danger was frustrated because of Cupit's inability to lift the heavy ball well over. Emery performed extraordinary feats of agility, and always seemed to be in the right place. Shots by Rennie, Tait and Yardley were made, but there was a lack of fire behind them, though some of the efforts, especially Tait's headers, deserved to score.

IT seemed as though the Town would make a very close thing of it, but suddenly JACK broke right away, and keeping the ball well under control, he dribbled clear, and then cut into the middle; he shot hard all along the ground from about a dozen yards, and it went straight to Imrie; to the general consternation, however, the goalkeeper allowed the ball to slip between his hands and legs, and into the net it went. It was a bad blow to the Town, and they lost some heart over this, but they returned to the assault.

THERE was no change in the reliability of the Orient defenders, and Emery continued to keep goal finely, and thrust after thrust was turned. And then there was the last straw. After two bad failures from isolated raids, Best badly missing, Jack got away again and centred high; Imrie caught the ball close to the upright, but before he could make up his mind what to do with it, Fletcher charged him and knocked the ball out of his grip, and MILLS dashed in and netted.

THE Town played pluckily to the end, again forcing a series of corners, but they could not score, and the end came with the heaviest defeat they have suffered at home for many years.

CLAPTON ORIENT	5
LUTON TOWN	1

LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Wilson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Cupit, Tait, Yardley, Rennie, Turner.

ORIENT.—Emery; Broadbent, Allison; Edmunds, Fowler, Peacock; Jack. Tricker, Fletcher, Mills, Best.

Referee.—Mr. E. C. Carnwell, Lichfield.