

FEATURES OF FIRST GAMES

LEAGUE TEAM'S THREE POINTS

Combination Side's Fall After Fine Start

(By "CRUSADER")

Saturday at Luton:—

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
NORTHAMPTON 1 goal
Scorers: MILLS, ROWE, for Luton.
DAWES (A.) for Northampton.

LUTON.—Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie, Rowe.

NORTHAMPTON.—Hammond; Oakley, Dawes (F.); Conway, Park, Davies; Mortimer, Boyle, Dawes (A.), Forbes, Wells.

Referee.—Mr. G. Hamilton-Jones, Woolwich.

Lea Bridge Speedway on Monday:—

CLAPTON ORIENT Nil
LUTON TOWN Nil

ORIENT.—Emery; Hebden, Jones; Sanders, Keen, Ellis; Best, Earle, Tricker, Phillips, Fletcher.

LUTON.—Same as above save Roberts for Rowe.

Referee.—Mr. P. Graham, Coventry.

Saturday at Lea Bridge Speedway:—

CLAPTON ORIENT RES. 1 goal
LUTON TOWN RES. .. 1 "

Scorers: WHALLEY for Luton.

IMRIE for Orient.

ORIENT RES.—Bruce; Chisem, Francis; Vango, Smith, Peacock; Le May, Witheridge, Imrie, Mills, Hales.

LUTON RES.—Harford; Hayhurst, Ives; Diaper, Mackey, Brown; Weaver, Hughes, Whalley, Alderson, Roberts.

Referee.—Mr. E. Hart, London.

Monday, at Luton:—

BRISTOL CITY RES... 6 goals
LUTON TOWN RES. .. 2 "

Scorers: REED (2), MORGAN, CAINEY, HEALE, COOMBS, for Bristol.

C. PARISH, WHALLEY, for Luton.

LUTON RES.—Harford; Hayhurst, Ives; Diaper, Mackey, Brown; Hughes, C. W. J. Parish, Whalley, Alderson, Corkindale.

BRISTOL CITY RES.—Sommerville; Ridge, Turner; Hall, Farr, Brinton; Coombs, Morgan, Reed, Heale, Caine.

Referee.—Mr. P. G. Arnold, London.

FIRST TEAM

BEFORE the first public practice match one of the spectators who had seen the first mid-week game told me: "We shall have a first-class first team, but the second team will be poor." By the match results he would seem to be something of a judge, but I should be loth to accept any such view about the second team so early. Of the first eleven, well, they have made a good start by taking three of a possible four points, and to my mind there was much more comfort in the second than in the first game, for the simple reason that the Orient have been a bogey team, and if they were not, their ground is a real bogey to players who, like the Town, want to play football as it is meant to be played. It may not be the fault of the people in charge of the Speedway enclosure, but the fact remains that the ground is dangerous; there was not a single player of the Town that had anything but the worst to say of it, for the ball would not run true at all, and the methods of the Orient, which were mainly to boot the ball hard and never shirk getting the man if the ball could not be captured, were probably dictated by their knowledge of the pitch.

WE knew after experience on Monday night that the Town Reserves had put up a plucky fight on Saturday, and there was high praise for several of the players from those Londoners who saw the match. No doubt hundreds of supporters of the Town felt certain that after such a good opening the points would be gathered from Bristol City on Monday night at Luton. There was a margin of four goals on the wrong side, and as Bristol City had gone down in their first match at home on Saturday the result will make the management don their thinking caps. From what I have seen of the Town Reserves in the practice game, however, as the first team, there can be better results. Opinions differ as to the merits of the side; blame was spread among a few players, and there was evidently something radically wrong with the side that went down so heavily, if, as was stated, they had so much more of the general run of the game. We must suspend judgment on both teams until they have played their next two games, yet it seems clear that there is need for recruits.

COBBLERS CONQUERED

IT was a meritorious win over Northampton on Saturday, for though the team did not touch the highest standard of last season, their first half display was good enough to earn the points, and to assure us that when the conditions are more suitable for football there will be consistent victories, especially if steps are taken to amend the weaknesses most apparent. All the goals were scored in the first half, a few minutes before the change of ends, but numerous opportunities were missed, and there were many shots that only failed by a very close margin to beat Hammond. The scientific phases of the game were more apparent in the Town side than among the Cobblers, for the latter relied chiefly on pluck and persistence, as was shown by their closing rally. Had the Town led by four goals at half-time they would not have been flattered, and yet at the end they were thankful for one goal margin.

MILLS scored the first goal with a hard shot that Hammond might have saved had not Park's head intervened at the wrong moment and sent the ball out of his reach. Just afterwards ROWE scored a magnificent goal after clever work by Fraser and Rennie, but with the interval very close at hand a fluky goal was scored by Albert DAWES for the visitors. The Town backs and McGinnigle failed to arrest a pass from the right, and the marksman sent in a shot that came unexpectedly for Imrie, who dived too late to stop the ball. The second half found the players weary from their first half efforts, and play was generally scrappy, the hard ground and light ball militating against accurate play, and long before the end each side seemed content with defensive measures, though Northampton made big endeavours to equalise. They failed, and so were beaten for the thirteenth time in fourteen games since the war.