

LUTON'S FALL AND RECOVERY

BIG CHANGE FROM SATURDAY TO MONDAY

Reserves' Shock and Surprise

(By CRUSADER)

At Bristol on Saturday.

BRISTOL CITY 5
LUTON TOWN 2

BRISTOL CITY.—Somerville; Knox, Taylor; Jennings, Parker, Wilson; Homer, Morgan, Bowen, Loftus, Scriven.
LUTON TOWN. — Imrie; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie, Rowe.
Referee: Mr. W. J. Lewington, Croydon.

Scorers:—For Bristol: Morgan, Scriven, Homer, Loftus, Bowen.
For Luton:—Tait (2).

At Luton on Monday.

LUTON TOWN 4
CLAPTON ORIENT 1

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Hodgson; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Hutchison, Tait, Rennie, Roberts.
ORIENT.—Emery; Hebden, Jones; Peacock, Keen, Ellis; Best, Earle, K. L. Cooper, Phillips, Fletcher.
Referee.—Mr. P. Graham, Coventry.

Scorers:—For Luton: Tait (2), Mills (2).
For Orient:—Best.

At Luton on Saturday.

WEST HAM RESERVES 2
LUTON RESERVES 1

LUTON RES.—Harford; Hayhurst, Ives; Diaper, Mackey, Brown; Weaver, Nelson, C. Parsh, Alderson, Roberts.
WEST HAM RES.—Lawrence; Walker, Fryatt; Wilson, St. Pier, Johnson; Morton, Mills, Watson, Fenton, Deacon.
Referee: Mr. W. J. Lucas, North Harrow.

Scorers:—For Luton: Alderson.
For West Ham: Mills, Watson.

At Bristol, on Monday.

BRISTOL CITY RES. . . 1 goal
LUTON TOWN RES. . . . 1 goal

BRISTOL CITY RES.—Pickett; Ridge, Turner; Hall, Farr, Brinton; Coomos, Reed, Sharp, Keale, Calney.
LUTON TOWN RES.—W. G. Gatward; Hayhurst, Ives; Diaper, Mackey, W. J. Devereux; Whalley, Nelson, Brown, Alderson, Weaver.

Referee: Mr. A. S. King, Swindon.
Scorers:—For Bristol: Sharp.
For Luton: Brown.

SATURDAY'S results must have sent the Luton Town supporters into the dumps, for both teams suffered defeat. Recompense was speedily forthcoming on Monday, when the first eleven gained a brilliant victory over Clapton Orient, and the Reserves, in spite of what might be regarded as a weakened side, went to Bristol and shared points with a team that had beaten them by six goals to two a week earlier. The victory over the Orient was the first the Town Club had gained in a League match at the expense of the Londoners, and was due to sterling play, and a dash and confidence that brought us back again to the splendid football shown by the team during the latter stages of last season.

THE injury to Imrie served to show that Harford can keep goal, for he did very well on Monday night. The back play, like that of the forward work, showed improvement in the second game, although one cannot say a great deal about it at Bristol, where so much misfortune befell. The halves are quite satisfactory, and are playing better than ever. McGinnigle is playing magnificently in defence, and on Monday night proved of better use to his attack than usual, while Kean and Fraser both produce their best. Fraser is in wonderful form, and that augurs well for the future.

UNDOUBTEDLY the best feature was the brighter play of the forwards. There was more understanding, and it was almost bewildering to compare the speed of the team on Monday night with what happened at Bristol. Every man played well, and Roberts proved a very good deputy for Rowe. Though not a brilliant performer, he is more than useful, and his centres produced goals, and that is what we require. Team spirit was good on Monday, and a continuance of that form will mean prosperity.

AT BRISTOL

OF the match at Ashton Gate it can be truly said that the Town were defeated by a combination of adverse circumstances. The worst mishap, of course, was the injury to Imrie, and it is pretty certain that he will not be able to play again this month. This occurred when the third goal was scored, and it cannot be said that the injury was any fault of an opponent, or that it had any effect on the score up to that point.

AT that stage, however, there was still a good deal of hope for the Town, for they were getting on top then, and the City were getting a bit panicky. The goal was scored quite unexpectedly, and was one of the two that Imrie should have prevented. The third came when Kingham was suffering from a kick in the face, and was rolling about the penalty area unable to take any part in the defence.

THE general rule, of course, is that the game should not be stopped if there is no interference with the play or the player is not seriously injured. Referees have different ideas as to the reading of this rule, but in my opinion in such a case as this the game should have been stopped. When Kingham was kicked the ball was got past him, and I would not grumble if the City had gone straight on and scored, but it was twice cleared, and still Kingham was in a dazed state and unable to get back to position.

THE first goal was scored against Imrie because he failed to hit the ball properly when he tried to lift it over the bar from a high centre, and this also was of the unexpected variety. The fourth goal was nicely worked for, but the fifth was obtained through Bowen being allowed to go through from an offside position, with the Town defenders in line appealing and pointing to him as he started from a position at least three yards to the wrong side of Hodgson, who was the nearest of the Town's players to goal.

IN another column will be found the view of the Rev. Bernard Jones, the former Luton minister, himself an old player, who was virtually level with the play at that point. I would not have stressed the matter so much otherwise, for the Press-box is not situated in a good position for judging offside positions at one end of the ground.

THERE was nothing fluky about the brace of goals scored by Tait. Both were the outcome of delightful passes by Rennie up the middle when something else was expected, and Tait went on in his own daring fashion and beat the backs for pace to score cleverly. Nevertheless, there were much better opportunities missed.

TAKING the game as a whole, the Town made the easier chances, mainly, perhaps, because it was harder to get past the Town halves and backs, but in the matter of recovery the City defenders were streets ahead. They, like McGinnigle for the Town, would never admit being beaten, but went after the ball and the man, and were quicker in taking up defensive position.

TAIT registered the first goal of the match. Then came SCRIVEN'S centre—not a shot—which Imrie failed to turn over the bar, and the City's lead was credited to MORGAN, while Kingham was temporarily incapacitated. These were the goals before the change of ends, but Scriven missed a great chance for

the City, and Tait (twice). Rennie and Rowe each could have scored had they gone direct for the ball first time instead of hesitating in front of goal.

THEN after a lot of good play by the Town came HOMER'S goal, when Imrie was injured, and shortly afterwards LOFTUS completed some good work by the City right by scoring easily against Kingham, who was the deputy for Imrie. The Town's second goal by TAIT followed, and the City's last by BOWEN a minute later. The Town were triers to the end, and nearly scored two or three times, Tait especially being dangerous, while Mills would have scored but for the intuition and sharp intervention of Wilson, who threw himself at the ball and man, as he had done once before with success, and so saved a goal that Sommerville could not have prevented.