

BRISTOL CITY'S DASH

BEAT LUTON BY THREE GOALS

Town's Misfortunes

(By "CRUSADER")

BRISTOL CITY 5
LUTON TOWN 2
BRISTOL CITY.—Sommerville: 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.

FRANKLY, I thought that the Town would at least share the points at Bristol on Saturday, for the strength of the City was not impressive, as far as one could judge from the reports of their previous games and knowledge of the players engaged. At times, indeed, or the greater part of the game until Imrie was injured, there was every reason to hope that view would eventuate, or once the players were in their stride they were fully as good as the City in the matter of combination, and Som-

merville had more severe work than Imrie.

The opening stages found the Town apparently stiff in their movements; some of the players were never as quick as is necessary in League football; but a succession of blunders and misfortunes brought down one's hopes and the team's intentions like a house of cards.

POSITIONING

None more dislikes football than merely has pace to commend it; I like to see planning and scheming, short passing varied with sweeping passes to the opposite wing, and the half-backs moving up to support. The demand today, however, is for goals; how they are obtained matters little, and if Luton are to make a strong bid for honours they will have to find a lot more speed, more vigour, and better shooting. After seeing several of the private practice games I am at a loss to understand why the positioning of the players is so poor in football. Perhaps I ought not to say that it was poor, but that it was not carried out quickly enough. The City's was no better, but they had more fire and dash, and that made a lot of difference. Even then, it should not have won for them, because the first and third goals should have been saved; the second was lost through a mishap to Kingham, and the fifth was a rank off-side point.

TIT-BIT FOR TAIT

Tait's goal was the first notification that the Town were waking up. They had been generally confined to their own half by the City's enthusiastic send-off, and suddenly Rennie got hold in mid-field; Knox expected him to slant the ball out to Rowe, but instead he shot it straight up the middle for Tait to race Taylor; the latter made a wild lunge, but TAIT headed not; he just pounced and ran right through, to beat Sommerville with a carefully-placed ball. The City were level in three minutes. There was a flutter on the left wing, and Kingham appeared to have the opposition beaten when he slipped in tackling, and SCRIVEN hurriedly centred; Imrie met the ball as it curled in, and tried to lift it over the bar, but did not hit it hard enough, and it twisted over his hand, dropped in front of the line, and then gently bounced just inside.

KNOCK FOR KINGHAM

Had there been no hesitation among the Town forwards they would have secured the lead immediately, for Mills went through on a pass by Hutchison and centred over the heads of the defenders; Rowe had closed in, but was not sharp enough in shooting, and Parker hurled himself on top of the ball, and there lay all in a heap a yard or two from goal, with the players ringed round him and none daring to kick at the ball for fear of the whistle. So Parker scrambled up and got the ball away. Then when the City came down Kingham was blinded by a kick in the face, and was staggering about while the referee allowed play to proceed. Had he lain down it is likely the whistle would have gone, but for fully a minute play was waged in the penalty area with Kingham unable to do anything. The ball was crossed from the left, and with the Town defenders drawn to that side Homer was unmarked, and he tapped the ball to MORGAN, who touched it through.

MISSES

Those were the first-half goals, but there should have been more. Tait alone was likely to be dangerous in the goal-mouth, for Rowe was limping through ankle trouble, and Hutchison and Rennie were right out of the battle zone. Once Tait was quicker than Sommerville, and made him drop the ball, but there was none up to help in the hustle, and the goalkeeper managed to regain possession some yards from goal. Then quick shots from Tait and Rennie in quick succession when Mills got the ball over well, must have scored, but they were just too slow in taking the chance, and defenders managed to get in the way. Sommerville made a wonderful save from Tait, who shot magnificently, the goalkeeper seemed to fly across and the ball was diverted round the post. The best two chances that were not taken came one to each team. First Scriven dribbled right through to within a few feet of Imrie and was on the point of shooting when McGinnigle turned up in the most unexpected fashion and saved the situation. It was a typical reward for the never-give-up-spirit. An even better chance came to Tait, for Mills, after Kean and Hutchison had outwitted and drawn the opposition, beat the defence with a lovely centre; Tait was waiting with the goal yawning in front of him; had he met

the ball he must have scored, but he waited for it, and Wilson, with as acrobatic a leap as his goalkeeper had made previously, and working in the same spirit as McGinnigle, got between Tait and the target, and the ball went behind; Wilson's head hit the post, and he was laid out for a while. Half-time.

CITY 1
TOWN 1
As the City captain had first choice of ends, what little advantage there was seemed now to be for the Town, and they re-started as though there was something in the choice. They rather more than held their own, the City rarely getting clear, and the only danger to Imrie's goal came from a long shot along the ground, which the goalkeeper felled on his knees, but did not hold properly. The ball came from such a distance, however, that there was no likelihood of a City man being on the spot. On the other hand the Town forwards were attacking well, but could not find that sharp struggle at the finish, and Tait was so well watched now that there always seemed to be a couple of opponents within hand-shake. Once he hustled to good purpose, and as he was brought down the ball bounced in front of goal, but there was plenty of time for the City folk to get it clear.

IMRIE'S INJURY

In this fifteen minutes the Town threatened again and again to draw level, and the City defenders found touch persistently, and gave away corner kicks because they were always turning up in a hurry, while the Town forwards were hesitating. Then came the bad blow. A long kick went up to the field to the left wing, and after a tussle there Scriven centred; Imrie started to come out, but too late to cut out the centre; Homer got the ball and shot promptly; Imrie, turning, dived, but the ball was past him. The goal-keeper got the ball with arm outstretched, but so awkwardly had he dropped that it was seen he was seriously injured, and he had to be assisted from the field. Kingham, as usual in such circumstances, donned the blue jersey. He had not much to do for some time, for the Town brought into their game a new zest, and swung the ball about to keep the City defenders on the run. Only another acrobatic feat by Wilson prevented Mills from scoring, for the winger closed in and had nearly all the goal for a target from four or five yards' range, but the City captain got there in the nick of time.

TAIT AGAIN

Hodgson played finely, and Fraser, who had fallen back, with Rennie going left half, held the opposition well, but with Rowe unable to raise a gallop, the attack was badly handicapped. Even so, Rennie hit the side net, and Tait twice headed just over, while Kean had a couple of drives that went near. Bowen was offside often, but the City began to open out the game a lot more, and met reward when Homer tricked his way through, and then muddled for LOFTUS to run the ball into the net. For a long time the Town held their own without doing any damage, for the City defenders took no risks, but at last a surprise was sprung. Rennie hood-winked Jennings and Knox, and then, with another characteristic pass, gave TAIT an opening. The centre-forward snapped up the ball, beat the backs for pace, and ran on to score a capital goal. Within a minute the City had recovered their three-goals lead, for BOWEN, who was yards offside, was allowed to go on and beat Kingham, while the Town defenders were standing pointing to his position.

For Imrie, one could not but feel sorry. He had not had a good match, and seemed to be lacking confidence in himself, but much of the City's superiority in attack was due to slowness in the Town's forward and middle line in "getting in." The City halves and inside forwards used their winks well, and first-time passing had much to do with their threats. Mention should be made of Kingham's goal-keeping. He was quite perky, and two or three times "brought down the house," one great leap to a ball that was intended to go over his head, being cleverly pulled out of danger, and the crowd gave him as good a cheer as if he had scored. Kingham and Hodgson also played well at back, kicking and tackling strongly and cleverly. McGinnigle was ubiquitous as ever, and had all worked with the same strenuous and unfinishing spirit there would have been a happier story. Fraser was disposed to be too gentle with little Homer, and never charged him off—perhaps because he was so small to get at, while Kean, though doing many clever things, was not always effective against a wing that had dash as well as craft.

FORWARD FAILINGS

Tait played a big-headed game against opponents who seemed so little fond of him that they did not want him anywhere near the ball. They crowded round him and gave him no peace, and it was a tribute to his pluck and persistence that he notched a couple of goals—but he should have had more. Rowe's ankle, which seemed to be all right when he was tried, gave way in the first half, and he was little better than a passenger for an hour. When he took off his boot a lump as big as a goose egg rose. Rennie put in a lot of skilful work, as did Hutchison, but both were hanging far back, and though there can be no doubt about the skill of the latter, he needs a quickening lotion. Mills again did very much better, and with a little more experience, will make good.

THEIR INSPIRATION

The City owed a great deal to the inspiration of their captain and left-half, Wilson. He saved the defence at least three times, while he was here, there any everywhere in the quickest possible time, and did a lot for his forwards. Sommerville was not always safe, and Taylor, of whom great things were spoken, was not a whit better than Knox. The latter never dallied in his clearances. The forwards were lively, Homer being very nippy and elusive, while the left wing pair showed good combination. There were 8,500 spectators.