

FIFTH HOME WIN

LUTON TOWN PULL THROUGH AGAINST GILLINGHAM

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN gained their fifth successive home victory on Saturday, when they disposed of the much-improved Gillingham team, but the margin was of the smallest, and there was nothing very convincing about the manner in which it was achieved. Against a vigorous and unyielding defence the Town attack, in spite of much cleverness, failed in final thrustfulness, though credit must be given to Holland for a good display in goal, and to his backs and halves for their pluck and solidity.

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RARELY were the visitors dangerous in the first half, but when they did cross the half-way line they gave the home defence two or three scares. Once in each half Harford had all his work cut out to prevent Armfield and Cropper respectively from breaking through, and in the first instance only the wisdom of Kingham in falling back on to the goal-line averted a goal, for Harford was on the ground and the ball behind him.

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THERE were splendid saves, and many close shaves for the Gillingham goal before the first goal. Holland made nine saves, but the inability of forwards to nod a ball downwards was one of the reasons for the Town inside men failing to score. Thrice the ball was headed over when a downward trend would have meant a goal. MILLS was the scorer of the only goal of the first half, and he did not intend a shot. From the touch-line he swung the ball across goal, and both Holland and Brown failed to get it, but there was a swerve which carried it just inside the post.

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THERE was real merit in the second, which came three minutes after the re-start, and it was deserving of the applause. Mills went right through and centred, and though he put so much powder behind the ball that Brown could not touch it, WHALLEY tore up on the left, caught it ere it could pass out of play, and then shot a great goal from a most acute angle. There were other chances for the Town after this, and once Brown seemed to have scored, but after hesitation the referee gave a corner kick while the crowd appealed for a goal.

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GILLINGHAM'S goal came midway through the half, after the Town had done a lot of heedless pressing, Armfield, who had been a crafty customer, beat

the defence and then turned the ball back for NICOL to shoot a splendid goal from an awkward position. Thereafter the visitors gave much more trouble to the Town defence, and the game also took a rough turn, with the result that Cropper, the inside left of the visitors, was admonished by the referee for fouling Kean.

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THE last fifteen minutes found play of a very scrappy character. Both goalkeepers had work to do, and although Harford probably did not wish for anything more difficult than came his way, Holland made several fine saves, notably from Brown, who shot very well on two occasions, although he missed a sitter after skilful work by Nelson. The ground had been cut up a bit during the game, and the ball had become rather heavy, and both teams had enough when the whistle was sounded for the final.

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GREAT satisfaction was felt by the Town supporters with the good work of Nelson and Whalley, appearing in the first eleven for the first time. Both played splendidly, putting a lot of dash into their business, and striving to infuse some dash into the finishing. Neither should be moved on that form; Mills also did well, but Brown and Rennie, although putting in neat work at times, found the stalwart defenders too strong.

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AGAIN the Town owed most to the magnificent work of the half-backs, all of whom were in great form, and Fraser was really brilliant. He is playing better now than at any time in his career, and there can be few more skilful or resourceful half-backs in the country. Kean played a captain's game, and McGinnigle was as keen and ubiquitous as ever. Kingham was splendid, and Mackey was again very useful, though his task was lightened by the skill of Fraser. Harford did his work well, too.

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GILLINGHAM'S best were Holland, Shipley, Collins, Nicol and Armfield.

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GILLINGHAM		1

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LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Nelson, Brown, Rennie, Whalley.