

FOUR DOWN BUT—

ALL QUIET ON THE COVENTRY FRONT

(By CRUSADER)

Never was I so tempted to leave untouched the record of a game as that at Coventry last Saturday. It seemed to me that everything was subordinate to the greater game that is due forty-eight hours hence, and this League match was just a sort of pot-boiler. Naturally, it attracted a fairly good crowd, for, apart from the intense cold, the weather was ideal for the old game, and there remains yet something of the old rivalry between the clubs.

Coventry won very comfortably, but it was such a game as was best liked when it was over, for in these days spectators look for hard and uncompromising games, with both sides all out for the spoils of the day. The City did put in all they knew, and the Town did not, yet there were periods when the Town players showed quite as much skill and craft as the winners, though they were obviously not troubling a great deal about the result. Neither in speed nor in footwork did the City outmatch the losers, but they won because they carried right through with their threats.

Had the Town attackers done the same and the defenders resisted as stubbornly as they had done in the matches with Barnsley, the City would not have scored anything like four goals, and there would have been goals at the other end. As it was, there was a lot of pretty play without definite result, and there were more outbursts of laughter than cheers as the game

wore on, and the players went in for individualism. With the exception of Harford, every player on the Town side had spasms of solo play, and the City fell in with the mood until the ball reached the danger zone, and then they were not playing that sort of game.

The Town had a few chances, and none a better opening than Rowe in the second half, but he dallied when he should have shot, with the result that the ball hit the City custodian. Harford made splendid saves in the Town goal, and could not be held responsible for any goal. There were two in each half. The first came from LAUDERDALE, and there was a grand first-time drive by Lauderdale from White's centre. The second came about half-an-hour later from LAKE, who was in an offside position, when a centre by Holmes skimmed off a Town defender's head and went straight to the inside-left, who had an easy chance. The third, also, was scored by LAKE, and again was due to blunders in the Town goalmouth, following brave work by Harford, and the fourth from a free kick from the edge of the penalty area, Perry scoring with a splendid shot.

COVENTRY CITY 4

LUTON TOWN Nil

COVENTRY.—McSevich; Elliott, Bisby; Perry, Davison, Boileau; H. Holmes, Lauderdale, Bourton, Lake, White.

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Mills, Nelson, Tait, Alderson, Rowe.

Referee.—Mr. W. Thomas, Walsall.