

# IN MILITANT MOOD

## COUNTY MAY SHAKE OFF RE-ELECTION BOGEY

By "CITIZEN"

|                      |    |                    |    |
|----------------------|----|--------------------|----|
|                      | G. |                    | G. |
| Newport County ..... | 3  | Luton Town         | 2  |
| (Thomas 2, Gardiner) |    | (Rowe, Hutchinson) |    |

Attendance, 3,000.

There is yet a bright prospect that Newport County will make a great eleventh hour recovery and spare themselves the worry of having to seek re-election.

That, at all events, was the conviction with which most people must have left Somerton Park on Thursday after seeing the County defeat Luton.

The County were in militant mood, and the final score did scant justice to their superiority. The conditions under which the game was played—hot sunshine, a hard ground, and an elusive ball—would have tested the most gifted player, and I can pay no higher tribute to Newport as a team than to say that their general form



Gardiner.

left previous little room for harsh criticism.

The control which the County forwards and half-backs exercised over the light ball was immeasurably superior to anything which the Luton team could show us. There was also greater versatility and accuracy about the County's approach work, and just a little more steadiness in front of goal, especially on the part of Green, would have brought two or three more scores at least.

### GARDINER'S VALUE

What a pity the County did not secure the services of Gardiner, late of Lovell's Athletic, earlier in the season! It would probably have made all the difference. Resourceful, plucky, and fleet of foot, Gardiner played a substantial part in winning this game by scoring the first goal, but what I liked about him most of all was not his excellent qualities as an individualist, but the fact that he linked up so successfully with both flanks. Under his leadership the County attack has improved out of all knowledge.

Rogers, too, is fast getting back to the form which won him a Welsh international cap when he was with Wrexham. Summers was artistic and neat in everything he attempted at centre-half, and John held a relentless grip on Luton's right wing. But for all-round efficiency I thought Rogers the best half-back on view.

Wheeler, too, played well at left back as deputy for Hugh, and Charlton also was very safe, but Solly was a mixture of brilliance and mediocrity.

The best goal of the match was unquestionably Gardiner's. He followed up a "forlorn hope" and beat a back and the goalkeeper, who had run out, before coolly turning the ball through from an acute angle. Thomas scored

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again immediately afterwards from a centre by Green, but quite early in the second half Solly fumbled the ball and allowed Rowe to reduce the leeway. Thomas again restored a two goals' lead to Newport with a remarkably clever hook shot, and then, just before the end, Hutchinson completed the scoring by again replying for Luton.