

LUTON'S HAPPY EASTER

SEVEN POINTS OF A POSSIBLE EIGHT COLLECTED

Rennie Gets a Few

(By Crusader)

On Friday at Luton.
 LUTON TOWN 6
 SWINDON TOWN 2
 LUTON—Innis, Kingham, Mackey, Bowen, McGinnis, Fraser, Mills, Hutchison, Rennie, Nelson, Rowe, Swindon—Griggs, Starfield, Chr-
 tian, Cousins, Godfrey, Brathwaite, Williams, A. Scott, Stansmore, Brooks, Quinn.
 Referee—Mr. G. C. Denton, Northamp-
 ton.

On Saturday at Luton.
 LUTON TOWN 2
 ALDERSHOT TOWN 1
 Luton team as above, except Alderson for Nelson.
 ALDERSHOT.—Robb, McDougall, Burgess, Gerrard, Middleton, Lawson, Ford, Thom, Smithson, Lane, Fishlock.
 Referee: Mr. F. Smith, Walsall.

At Swindon, on Monday.
 SWINDON TOWN 1
 LUTON TOWN 1
 Luton team as above save Whalley for Alderson.
 Swindon team as above save Beutbrook for Gurney.
 Referee same.

At Luton, on Tuesday.
 LUTON TOWN 3
 QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS 1
 LUTON.—Same team as above except Talbot for Hutchison; Hutchison for Whalley.
 Q.P. RANGERS.—Beecham; Barrie, Hall, Adams, Armstrong, Goodier, Marshall, Blackman, Wiles, Brown, Howe, Marcroft.
 Referee: Mr. W. E. Russell, Swindon.

TOO much stress should not be laid on the success of the Town during Easter, for although one does not wish to depreciate their performance in any way, the fact remains that three of the four games were at home, and the opposition was not particularly strong. In the ordinary way the Town would have been expected to take at least six points, and there was no great merit in being able to bring away a point from Swindon on their own ground, since they are struggling to avoid the bottom two positions in the League, and had been so heavily trounced at Luton three days before.

THERE is satisfaction, however, in the rise in the table. Before the holiday the Town were by no means safe from the indignity of figuring very close to the bottom of the table, but now they should be nearer the middle, and if they could take as many points from their last four games of the season as from the four during Easter they would certainly go above the middle of the table. Can they take six points from the following games?

HOME	AWAY
Southend	Q.P. Rangers
Watford	Crystal Palace

THANKS mainly to their big win on Good Friday, they have put their goal average on the right side, and the defence should be good enough to keep it there if the forwards can only manage a few more. The most disappointing feature of the holiday games has been the attendance. Perhaps one could not expect a big crowd on Tuesday owing to the resumption of work, and maybe conscience kept a lot away on Good Friday, but that is hardly a feasible excuse in face of the fact that the attendance on Saturday was even smaller than that of the previous day. End of the season—gates, of course, but the expenses of the club are the same at the end of the season as at the beginning as far as individual matches are concerned, and one might well recall with some feeling the Cup-ties, and ask where all those followers have gone.

RANGERS BEATEN

THE final League game of the holidays was played on Tuesday at Luton, and the attendance was the smallest of the four matches. It came as a pleasant surprise to the supporters to see Tait in the field again, and although his knee was well bandaged, he seemed to pose the test satisfactorily, and certainly had a big part in the improvement of the attack. The Rangers had a very big defence, but while they were able to counter attacks when the ball was kept close, they were beaten, as any defence can be, by swinging football. Two of the goals came as the result of sweeping passes from right to left, and it was notable that all three goals came from the wing men.

The visitors were first dangerous, and there was a little thrill when Mackey missed his kick almost immediately after the start, but Kingham covered him and got the ball away very skillfully as the Rangers' inside forwards closed in. Neat combination by Fraser and his left was wound up by Hutchison taking a shot that went well over, and when a similar movement began on the left it was carried on by Rowe, who went right through and beat a couple of men before shooting the ball across. Mills had closed in and aimed for a shot, but the ball rolled off his foot and went behind. Wiles and Blackman showed plenty of spirit, but Kingham held up the centre-forward at a crucial moment, and then Goodier did good service for his side by beating Mills two or three times in quick succession as the winger tried to break away.

The Town were doing the more pressing, and the Rangers had to concentrate largely on defence, but they used plenty of shoulder, and booted the ball very hard. Brown was prominent, and from his pass right across the field Rowe had a splendid chance at close range, but he quite failed to get the lively ball under control. Marcroft raised the hopes of the Rangers as he sped away, but Mackey was hampering him at the finish and he could only put the ball behind the rails. Still, the Rangers, by dint of hard kicking, kept play in the Town quarters for some time, though Imrie was not troubled.

Fraser and Hutchison again showed the way to the other end, and there was an onslaught that threatened to bring success, but Mills got the better of Goodier at a second attempt and muddled the ball, and a terrific shot by Rennie struck a defender. Beecham had not been severely tested so far, though he had handled several times, but when the Rangers tried to get away by the use of their wingers, Brown and Fraser mastered them, and sent the ball back to their forwards. Rennie had a couple of shots that were off the mark, and then came a nice bout of passing all along the home front line, but Rowe hit the ball much too hard when a gentle tap would have given his inside colleagues a chance. However, Mills forced a corner, and from his flag kick Rennie made a splendid attempt to head through, the ball flying past the farther upright.

Beecham now had more work. He had to run out and save three times in quick succession, and his backs had to kick lustily several times when the Town forwards were at close quarters. Rowe sprinted away on the Rangers' left wing, but his centre was met by Mackey. Rennie led another assault, and Rowe and Hutchison each tried a shot, but neither was on the target. Tait was doing good work for Mills, but the latter found Goodier a tough opponent, and rarely got past him.

Both teams were showing signs of fatigue before the game was near the interval, and the best shot of the first half-hour came from Blackman, who drove in very hard, but Imrie was all there and lifted the ball over the bar. The flag kick was kicked clear by McGinnigle, and then Blackman attempted to dribble through, but was held up by Mackey. A free kick put the Town on the move again, and Rennie headed just wide. The Town then set up a strong attack, and Hutchison and Rowe each made desperate attempts to put the ball through, but without avail, the goal being packed.

However, following a free kick well placed by Mackey, Rennie slipped the ball to MILLS, who shot very hard to beat Beecham and open the score forty minutes after the start. Then came further attacks, and Beecham had to punch away good efforts from Mills and Tait in quick succession, and Mackey also drove in a free kick which the goalkeeper got away by using both fists. Play remained in favour of the Town until the interval, though they could not beat Beecham again. It was a well-deserved lead they held at the change of ends.

Immediately play was resumed the Town right forged ahead, Tait being noticeable for clever play, and when the ball went across, Rennie was a foot wide with a hot shot. Kingham checked a concerted effort by Wiles and Blackman, and then the home goal had a couple of narrow escapes in as many minutes. Imrie made two splendid saves, and then Blackman drove in a terrific shot that knocked his mate, Wiles, off his feet, the centre-forward being in the direct line of fire. The Town goal was in danger again a moment later, but relief came through Hutchison and McGinnigle.

The ball was swung out to the right, and, although momentarily the right wing pair were thwarted, Brown was following up, took possession, and then banged the ball right across for ROWE to meet it on the run and fire in a great drive that beat Beecham all the way. The Town overplayed the visitors for a few minutes, and Beecham cleverly saved under the bar from Mills, and also pushed over a free kick from McGinnigle, both being brilliant saves. Almost under the bar Barrie robbed Hutchison, and the goal escaped luckily.

However, more bright play, in which Brown and his right wing participated, brought the third goal, for they went right through, and Mills centred from near the line, pulling the ball backwards, and ROWE again darted in and scored with a great shot, at which Beecham dived in vain. Rennie tried hard to add to the score, and Tait and Hutchison put in skilful work, but Beecham saved nicely, and his backs never stood on ceremony. The Rangers then had a turn, and a good effort by Wiles was applauded, but Mackey was too much for him.

Beecham won cheers for a splendid save from Rowe, whose centre swerved under the bar, and then the goalkeeper grandly turned over a header from Tait. The Rangers put more life into their work, and Rennie was brought down just inside the penalty area, but the referee refused the appeal. Fraser and Hutchison were again leaders in a fierce assault, and from Rowe's centre McGinnigle banged the ball over the bar. Beecham saved from Tait, and then Rowe twice headed just wide from centres by Mills and Brown respectively.

As the end approached the Town slackened somewhat, and the Rangers took advantage of this, and during a rather loose attack three or four players of each side completely missed the ball, and it was scrambled towards the Town goal. Wiles then slipped it to BLACK-

MAN, who made no error with a last shot. Immediately afterwards Leslie brought up a great sare when Wilson and Blackman were right through, and the goal seemed bound to fall. And after this the Town tightened up again, and Day went to the other end, but there was no further score.