

At Cardiff on Saturday.

CARDIFF CITY 3

(Smith (C.) 2, Pugh)

LUTON TOWN 0

CARDIFF CITY.—Fielding; Granville, Scott; Nicholson, Bassett, Godfrey; Pugh, Pinxton, Smith (C.), Talbot, Ovenstone.

LUTON TOWN. — Dolman; Mackey, Smith (T.); Finlayson, Nelson, Fellowes; Hodge, Martin, Mills, Roberts, Stephenson. Referee.—E. Gamson, Kidderminster.

LUTON TOWN caused disappointment to their supporters by the decisiveness of their defeat at Cardiff, but it must be said that they scarcely deserved to be beaten by a margin of three goals. Bad luck dogged them throughout the match, and this was most apparent in the second half, when many efforts which deserved to score missed the target by inches.

MARTIN WAS THE CHIEF SUFFERER in this respect, and the Cardiff defence was well blessed by fortune time after time. In the first half, too, Roberts had the worst luck possible when a great shot hit the angle of the post and the bar. A goal at this stage might have made all the difference.

IT MUST BE ADMITTED, however, that the Town failed to reproduce anything like the form which made them such a force in the Third Division last season, and they were never really playing well together. This was particularly noticeable in the first half, when they took a long time to settle down.

CARDIFF had more of the play, and the Town defence was hard pressed, and several mistakes were made. Bad marking led to the first goal, which was scored by SMITH (C.) following a corner, seventeen minutes after the start. He was standing behind the rest of the forwards when the ball came to him, and there was no one near enough to tackle. The second was also scored by the City centre-forward, who took advantage of a slip by Nelson to slip through and beat Dolman from close range. This goal came after thirty-one minutes.

IT WAS AFTER this further setback that Luton began to show better form, and in the second half they promised even better. However, another snap goal, scored by PUGH, the brilliant young winger, put paid to any chances there were of saving the match. The Town had the bulk of the play subsequently, and for long periods the home backs and halves had to work overtime to keep the score-sheet blank.

THE LUTON FORWARDS made frantic efforts to score, but they simply could not get the ball into the net. Their finishing left a lot to be desired, although much of the approach work was brilliant. Mills was once again opposed to a big, resolute centre-half, and did not have much chance to show what he can do. Stephenson was not given enough work, and Hodge, on the other wing, was very clever, but held the ball too long before getting it across.

ROBERTS showed an improvement on his Walsall form, and Martin worked very hard. The wing halves were only moderate, and their service to the forwards was poor for the most part. Nelson had an indifferent first half, but he was his old self after the interval, and successfully stopped Smith (C.). The defence as a whole, however, was not as solid as usual, although Mackey and Smith (T.) got through a tremendous amount of work. The latter had a hard task in marking Pugh, who frequently showed him a clean pair of heels.

NO FAULT could be found with Dolman, who had absolutely no chance of saving the shots which passed him. He effected several excellent clearances, and fielded the ball cleanly. Cardiff have an improved side, and while they are not likely to emulate the deeds of the men who wore their colours in their more palmy days, they should gain a very respectable position in the League before the end of the season.