

TIP-TOP WALSALL WHIP LUTON

by **BOB BLACKBURN**

Walsall 4, Luton Town 0. 63/64

WALSALL, putting on their brightest and most scintillating show of the season, outplayed Luton at Fellows Park—but there were only 3,863 there to see it.

After several near misses and some fine Baynham saves, Wiggin opened the scoring in the 21st minute, and Fincham put through his own goal seven minutes later. Wiggin netted again 11 minutes after the interval and Foster made it four in the 69th minute.

WALSALL: White; Roper, Sharples; Palin, McPherson, Wills; Meek, Matthews, Wiggin, Hodgkisson, Foster.
LUTON TOWN: Baynham; Morton, Bramwell; Pacey, Fincham, McGuffie; Fairchild, Smith, Turner, Reid, McKechnie.

Referee: Mr. A. W. S. Jones (Liverpool).

The recorded version of "The Saddlers' Song" — the melody it is hoped will help boost Walsall's fortunes—was heard at Fellows Park for the first time, but there were barely 3,000 spectators to hear it and the bitter cold must have affected their voices for very few joined in the singing.

Walsall almost snatched a goal in the second minute. Meek swung an inviting centre into the middle, and Baynham lost possession when trying to clear from the onrushing Matthews. The ball dropped at the feet of Hodgkisson who appeared to have the simplest of chances. All he could do, however, was jab the ball against the Luton goalkeeper who made no mistakes the second time.

Then came the best Walsall effort so far. Graham Matthews, out on the left wing, suddenly began a darting run which carried him into the Luton penalty area. He slipped his way round a desperately tackling defender, and then fired in a

shot which Baynham did well to hold.

Walsall were doing most of the forcing, but Fincham, the giant Luton centre-half, was proving a formidable obstacle in the visitors' penalty box.

Twenty-one minutes had gone before Walsall had their just reward. Hodgkisson did the spade work with a lovely through pass, and **WIGGIN** streaked in to flick the ball into the net. Baynham got his hand to the ball but could not stop it.

Dominating Walsall were two up in 28 minutes with a freak goal, but one which did not flatter their superiority. In another concentrated attack, Wiggin had a shot charged down. The ball ran out to Foster, who hit it for goal first time, but it was clearly going wide of the far post until **FINCHAM**, attempting a desperate clearance, diverted it into the back of his own goal. Baynham gathered the ball into his arms, but Referee Jones ruled that it was over the line.

Walsall were really goal-hungry, and Matthews went close to putting them three in front when he was allowed to steady himself for a shot which was flashed just outside.

The most dangerous threat to the home goal stemmed from a free-kick just outside the penalty area. Pacey steered the ball in with a deceptive swerve, but there was no Luton man capable of turning the chance to good account.

Half-time: Walsall 2
Luton 0

Luton did more attacking in the first few minutes of the second half than they had during the whole of the first period. First they forced a corner on the left and then they came through in a strong burst which ended when left-half McGuffie skied the ball high and wide from the edge of the penalty area.

Jubilant Walsall were soon



● **WIGGIN** streaked in to score first goal.

three up. Again the maker-in-chief was Hodgkisson who took a long upfield pass out on the right, shook off a determined challenge by Bramwell and then swung over a perfect centre which dipped over the outstretched arms of Baynham and **WIGGIN** was on the spot to nod the ball home.

Luton came back with a scrambling attack. The threat was nullified when Smith tamely shot wide of the post.

Walsall fans were shouting 'We want six,' and they almost had four when Matthews swung on to a short pass from Meek and was denied a goal only because the ball was deflected for a corner by Baynham's outstretched foot.

At one stage only centre-half Fincham and goalkeeper Baynham were in the Luton half, but all the efforts of their attack did nothing to shake the Walsall defence, in which every man was on top form.

Goal No. 4 duly arrived in the 69th minute.

Meek raced down the left wing and crossed the ball fast and accurately for **FOSTER** to complete the move by flashing the ball into the far corner of the net with a brilliant header.

Luton made another sporadic raid and even though Fairchild planted the ball in the goal-mouth centre-forward Turner could do no better than head weekly into White's arms.

GOALS AND THEIR SCORERS

21m. Walsall 1, Luton 0. Wiggin
28m. Walsall 2, Luton 0.

56m. Walsall 3, Luton 0. Wiggin
69m. Walsall 4, Luton 0. Foster