

THE UNITED LEAGUE

LUTON v. WELLINGBOROUGH.

Played at Wellingborough on Saturday. Result:—

Luton 8 goals.
Wellingborough nil.

The teams were as follow:—

RIGHT. LUTON TOWN LEFT.

Williams (goal).

McCartney

McEwen.

Davies.

Stewart.

Docherty.

Gallacher. Coupar.

Galbraith.

McInnes.

Birch.



Mellor. Little. Murray. Drage. Walker.

Heapy.

Murrell.

Howa.

Steel.

Helmes.

Robinson (goal).

LEFT. WELLINGBOROUGH. RIGHT.

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Referee, Mr. T. W. Saywell; linesmen, Messrs. H. T. Shackleton (Luton), and Martin (Wellingborough).

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Spectators wishing to enjoy football should wear Ram Fleece Hosiery, to be obtained only of S. Bassett, Tailor, Hatter, and Hosier, 28, Wellington-street.—[ADVT.]

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It is an astonishing result! The winners of the Arsenal and Millwall defeated by eight goals to nil on their own ground. I am glad I am not a Wellingborough scribe. It would cut me to the quick to have to record such a dismal failure by our local men. True there is some consolation for him in the fact that one of the Wellingborough half-backs was disabled, but his absence could not have made all the difference of those eight goals, and on the day's form I believe that with Wellingborough at their full strength, Luton would have won by five or six clear goals.

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I was looking forward with some amount of confidence to the capture of those two League points which a win would entail, but I confess I never anticipated such a decided licking for the Northamptonshire club, as that which was administered to them. Wellingborough people had for a long time been harbouring thoughts of revenge, though in their heart of hearts, I don't think they really expected to make more than a drawn game on Saturday.

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They had not been able to erase from their minds the heavy defeat inflicted upon them at Luton in the first of their two League encounters with us. Seven to nil was their worst performance this season, and they would certainly have liked to have made some atonement. But the team and their supporters were doomed to a huge disappointment, and I believe they felt it very keenly when Luton broke the record by notching up eight against them. I congratulate our team on their achievement. Fifteen goals to nil in two matches, thus gaining four points in the League table, is a highly meritorious performance.

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Wellingborough had out their full team, and winning the toss they started with the sun at their backs. It was a glorious afternoon, and there must have been nearly 2,000 people present, the "gate" receipts amounting to £39. There was a great shout of "Play up Hock," as Wellingborough began to attack. This aroused my curiosity, and I afterwards learned that the nickname had been given to them because everyone at Wellingborough eats what is known as "Hock and dough pudding"—this being a hock of pork cooked with potatoes and a suet crust. It has the reputation of being very palatable, but into its mysteries I dare not enter. Perhaps some of my lady readers will take advantage of the recipe.

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To return to the game. I had almost said I never expected other than that Luton would win. But when I recollect the first five minutes of the game I must admit I was unpleasantly surprised to find that Wellingborough could more than hold their own. They displayed thus early a knack of tearing down the wing and popping the ball across in unpleasant proximity to Williams. The style adopted is peculiar to Northamptonshire clubs, but the Luton defence have had a pretty good experience, and knowing just what was necessary to stop the rushes they soon settled down.

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Luton had just begun to feel their feet when the accident which deprived Wellingborough of Heapy occurred. Gallacher was getting nicely away on the right, when Steel and Heapy, evidently with the object of getting him between them, closed in. The three came into collision, Steel landing with his knee on Heapy's shoulder, with the result that both fell, the latter getting his collar-bone broken. He had to leave the field. Gallacher, too, did not escape uninjured, his shoulder being badly bruised, and causing him to be in severe pain for the remainder of the game. However, he stuck to his work, and did not go off until he had seen seven goals scored.

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After the accident Birch had an opportunity of

After the accident Birch had an opportunity of getting away, but Wellingborough replied vigorously on both wings. However, Gallacher soon got down again, and a free kick fell to Luton, but it could not be turned to account, because of an infringement of the offside rule. Then Coupar put Gallacher in possession again, and he tested Robinson with a good shot, while Docherty just after had a try, but sent on the wrong side of the upright. Still Luton made for goal, and pretty work by McInnes, Galbraith and Coupar, once more gave Gallacher the ball, which he sent across in splendid fashion, Robinson seeming to have no idea that it would drop in the corner of the net as it did. It was a splendid cross-shot, and deserved to score.

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Upon the re-start, Docherty made himself conspicuous by smartly pulling up Walker, but the Wellingborough left wing next took a turn, which only resulted in Drage being given offside. At this stage, Mellor fell to half-back, the Luton attack being found to be more dangerous than was desirable. But the change did not serve to stem the tide, Davies from a free kick putting into Robinson's hands, Galbraith at the same time being penalised for tackling him before he got possession of the ball. Now and again Wellingborough would break away, but Luton had most of the play.

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Davies, McInnes and Coupar each tried a shot, and Docherty followed with one which was really very difficult for the custodian to deal with. Then Birch had a splendid opening, but instead of banging the ball into the net, he touched it out of play. I was very sorry to see such a chance missed, for it might have been that we should want the point. However, in view of the after events, it did not very much matter. Some time after this, Birch and Galbraith both got dangerously near, and then "Gally" worked his way through beautifully, passing Steel cleverly, and beating Robinson with a hot shot. He tried hard to clear, but there was tremendous force behind the ball, and it literally forged its way between his hands and the crossbar. This was after half-an-hour's play. Nothing else came before the interval, when Luton led by two goals to nil.

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"Lemon-time" was enlivened by the local Volunteer band, and a collection was made for Heapy, the Luton players having suggested this should be done, and started the list. A sum of £3 14s. was raised. Upon the re-start, Wellingborough played with only one back, the object being to nullify the efforts of the Luton forwards by continually placing them offside. In the first minute this had the effect of penalising Galbraith, and just later Gallacher was a victim. Birch, too, ran down and scored, but the point was disallowed for the same reason. However, Luton were now hemming in the locals, who could not afford to give a thought to continuing their one-back tactics. Galbraith got past Steel nicely, but had the hard luck to put the ball on the wrong side of the net.

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Directly afterwards Galbraith put into Robinson's hands, and the attack continued exciting, Gallacher eventually getting in another of his grand cross-shots which completely baffled the custodian. Re-starting, Wellingborough went down, Williams being called upon by Little. The attack was short-lived, Stewart returning and Galbraith and Coupar shooting at goal. Birch also put across from the wing, and Galbraith looked like getting through, Robinson only saving at the expense of a corner. This was well taken by Gallacher, and Stewart headed goal number four, much to the dismay of the supporters of the home team, who now began to realise that Luton were far and away too good for them.

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Another four or five minutes' play sufficed to bring the fifth point, Coupar receiving from McInnes, and doing the trick in commendable style. The same player was responsible for the sixth, though Gallacher was largely instrumental in obtaining it, a splendid run down the line leading up to a fine centre, which enabled Coupar to put into the net. The Wellingborough people claimed that Gallacher played the

ball over the line, and Mr. Shackleton brought on himself a shower of invectives when he refused to hold up his flag. The ball was certainly in play, and it would have been a mistake to award a throw-in.

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Not long afterwards Coupar ran up at the crucial moment, and added the seventh goal. Even now Luton were not satisfied, but continued to try to pile on the agony. McInnes, who had all through worked most unselfishly, tried a shot which rebounded off the crossbar. I should have liked to have seen him score, but it was not to be. However, directly afterwards he was the means of giving the ball to Birch, who plodded along with it down the wing and centred to Galbraith, that player easily adding the 8th and last goal. Nothing further resulted though Luton kept up an almost continual attack. It was a severe drubbing for Wellingborough, and I was quite satisfied.

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The best forward on the Luton side was perhaps Gallacher, who though handicapped with a wounded shoulder, gave a brilliant exhibition. The three inside forwards also played a wonderfully clever game, and Birch did better than usual at outside. The halves were good, Doocherty and Stewart running one another close for the premier position, while the backs played a sound game.

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The two most dangerous men on the Wellingborough side were Little and Walker. They were well looked after, and they made the mistake of playing too much for themselves. Had they centred more frequently, and given the other men a chance, I venture to think the Luton defence would not so easily have kept their goal intact. Steel and Holmes both did a lot of work, and our old friend Howe put in all he knew, but could not make much of McInnes. Mr. Saywell's refereeing was excellent.

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Milwall disposed of Kettering by three goals to one, and they hold first position with 13 points to their credit. Luton took a decided step up the ladder, and are now fourth on the list. The Arsenal stand second, but Luton have three matches in hand. If only Millwall can be beaten in one game, we may hope to draw level in points and beat them on the goal average. The following is the table up to date:

Goal's