

Football

LUTON v. WELLINGBOROUGH.

A HUGE VICTORY IN THE UNITED LEAGUE.

Luton went down to Wellingborough to win on Saturday, but they barely expected to surpass the defeat administered to the Northants club on Dec. 19th at Luton when they scored 7 goals to nil. About 45 left Luton by the 12 o'clock train, and as the journey occupied but 75 minutes, there was plenty of time before the kick-off at 3 o'clock. The Volunteer Band paraded the town prior to the kick-off, and again in the interval of the game, enlivened the day.

The "gate" was the best the Wellingborough executive have had this side Christmas, and was doubly welcome, for the club finances do not by any means show a healthy balance. Mr. Saywell, Chatham, trod the pitch for the first time in his official capacity as referee, and he called out the teams as under:

Luton: Williams; McCartney and McEwen; Davies, Stewart, and Docherty; Gallacher, Coupar, Galbraith, McInnes, and Birch.

Wellingborough: Robinson; Steele and Holmes; Howe, Murrell, and Heapy; Walker, Drage, Murray, Little, and Mellor.

Linesmen: Messrs. H. T. Shackleton and Martin.

Little spun the coin, and as it fell in his favour he at once decided to have the sun and wind at his back. Luton wore the stripes, and Wellingborough donned white. The home side broke through from the kick-off and the defensive powers of McCartney and Stewart were taxed in turn, and Williams the next minute had to give a corner. Heapy took the kick and placed well. McCartney headed out, and relieved the pressure for a moment. Little, however, returned with a swinging kick, which sent the leather wide, and danger was at an end.

Vigorous shouts hailed this smart attack, and they did not diminish when Gallacher had the misfortune to handle close in. Happily, McEwen got in his first kick, and Gallacher raced up the wing until he reached Heapy. He was breaking away from that player, when Steele, the home left back, charged upon them both in a manner most furious. It looked as though he meant "bottling up" Gallacher early in the game, but if that was his intention he missed his man, and caught Heapy on the back with his knee, fracturing that player's collar-bone.

This put an end to hostilities for a few minutes, but after Heapy had been picked up he attempted to resume play, and the game proceeded. Gallacher was also hurt in the shoulder, and until he retired about 10 minutes from the call of time, had to hold his left arm still. Heapy never got near the ball again, and left the field suffering acutely.

Little fouled close in shortly afterwards. Davies placed well, and found the net, but Galbraith attacked Robinson, and the point was disallowed. The rough element imported into the game during the first few minutes began to subside, and the visitors settled down. From the goal-kick Davies returned to Coupar, and Docherty put in a fine long shot amid applause. A foul against Wellingborough was the next item of interest, and it gave Luton their first real chance. Gallacher got the ball, and beating Mellor (who had fallen back to left half) and Steele, found the net with one of his best shots sent in from the flag. Ironical cheers and cries of "Good old hock" were sent up to celebrate the occasion.

Again and again Steele repulsed the attacks by strong kicking, but an unpleasant feature was the number of fouls against the Wellingborough men, who, when down, didn't hesitate to collar a man by the leg. Galbraith and Coupar foreshadowed better things by the first bit of combination. They beat both backs easily, and it was left for Coupar to score. He must have mistaken the whereabouts of the posts, for he sent in a shot at random. Play was then transferred, McEwen giving a corner, but making amends by effecting a good clearance. Docherty got away, and put in another long shot, which Robinson received in his arms. Birch was giving a weak exhibition, and he shortly afterwards spoilt a good opening by shooting wide, when only about 2 yards out of goal.

Galbraith was shooting on every possible occasion, and after 35 minutes' play he was rewarded, for he hit the cross-bar with a long, swift shot which glided into the net. Again the Luton supporters asserted themselves. Williams had to handle a second time, and the whistle blew for half-time with the score

LUTON 2 goals
WELLINGBORO' .. 0 "

Luton		2 goals
Wellingboro'	..	0 ..

Crossing over, Luton had the benefit of the sun and wind. Mellor had gone back to his old place at outside left, and Holmes had taken Heapy's position. Although the bootmakers knew the game was going dead against them, they showed no signs of flagging. Birch began to assert himself, helped McInnes much more effectively in the short passing game, and made a really smart run. But the first honours again fell to Gallacher after 10 minutes' play, when he again netted the ball from the corner.

Williams made one or two smart saves. From one of them Docherty broke away and centred. Robinson partially cleared and a bombardment began but ended in a fizzle. Birch got the ball from McInnes on the kick out and made another sprint upsetting Howe and Steele in his course and sending in hard to Robinson who gave a corner. Stewart got the ball on his head from the kick and No. 4 came after 15 minutes play. Wellingburians now despaired of a draw, and could afford to laugh at the turn events had taken. But they cheered their favourites on and their enthusiasm knew no bounds when in consequence of a slight misunderstanding between the Luton backs, Murray, Drage, and Little took pot shots at Williams. At length, little McEwen relieved, and 6 minutes later Coupar had netted No 5 from a centre by McInnes.

Mellor lost his temper over McEwen in the corner. The Luton back put behind and Mellor perpetrated a ghastly foul upon him. McEwen picked himself up quickly and retaliated with his fist, and the end of a disagreeable incident was that Mr. Saywell cautioned both players. A corner was given and McCartney passed up to Gallacher. That player centred to Coupar who found the net for the 6th time. "Tommy" McInnes repeated the incident in the West Bromwich match when he struck the cross bar and was himself knocked down and unable to get near the ball, which hung on the line for a second. Coupar got No. 7 from a throw in, after Birch had broken away for the third or fourth time.

Gallacher retired from the game at this point, and as it only wanted eight minutes to time Luton could afford to take things easily. But Birch had evidently found that a sprint down the line paid, for he repeated his previous performances, centred well to "Gally" who had the pleasure of adding the 8th and last goal. Score :

Luton		8 goals
Wellingboro'	..	0 ..

NOTES.

Wellingborough folk had an idea that on their own ground they would make a draw. For be it remembered they have this season beaten Millwall and the Arsenal on their own ground in the United League. Luton, of course, are deeply grateful for these performances, for they may possibly allow us to draw level with Millwall in the end. Luton now stand fourth on the League table, with fewer matches played than the three clubs in front, and with the finest goal average of any.