

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR.

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton Town	2 goals.
Tottenham Hotspur	1 goal.

The teams were as follow:—

RIGHT. LUTON TOWN LEFT.

Williams (goal).

McCartney

McEwen.

Davies.

Stewart.

Docherty.

Perrins.

Coupar.

Galbraith.

McInnes.

Ekins

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Payne. Clement. Wilson. Newligging. McElheney.

Crump.

Briggs.

Devlin.

Mair.

Allen.

Ambler (goal).

LEFT. TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR. RIGHT.

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Referee, Mr. J. C. Tillotson; linesmen, Messrs. E. Birch and A. T. Otten Ham.

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A meeting between Luton and Tottenham Hotspur may generally be depended upon to produce plenty of excitement, if not a vast amount of science, and Saturday's encounter was no exception to the rule. There was a very big crowd, the spectators numbering about 5,000, and as a fair number of these were followers of Tottenham, a considerable amount of noise was made.

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Especially was this the case in the neighbourhood of the grand stand, where the rival factions were at it continuously, the war of words being carried on with quite as much vigour as the battle in the arena. On the terraces things were a bit more peaceful. There the company was more select than numerous, and accommodation for four thousand was monopolised by less than four hundred.

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The Luton supporters naturally felt their team was handicapped by the absence of Gallacher, and it was somewhat of a relief to them to find that Burrows and Montgomery were unable to turn out for the Spurs, Monty having at the last moment been struck down by influenza. Almond was also an absentee, having been injured in the Southampton match, but I think Luton would have preferred to see him rather than Stanley Briggs, whom they always find to be a stumbling block.

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Respecting your neckwear! Do you prefer to tie your tie, or would you rather have a bow or a knot? You can see the newest colours and styles in all the shapes if you will take the trouble to inspect our stock.—M. Mares.—[ADVT.]

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Luton, losing the toss, had to face the sun, and a slight wind, but they were the first to get in evidence, and some damage might have been done had not Coupar indulged in more trickery than was necessary or desirable. The Spurs replied, and after McElheney had shown a piece of bad marksmanship, Crump sent in a beautiful low shot, just by the post.

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Luton then had another turn, but Coupar was once more too slow to take advantage of an opening that presented itself, and Stewart sent wide. Then it seemed that Luton were going to get through, both the Hotspur backs being beaten, but Ambler managed to get on the ball a moment before Galbraith, and the Tottenham supporters breathed once again. The corner given by the custodian was not turned to account.

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Ambler was somewhat worried by the attentions of McInnes, and a free kick close in goal was not conducive to peace of mind. Stewart placed the ball, and to the unbounded delight of the Luton portion of the spectators, Ekins put through six minutes from the start. The Spurs did their best to retaliate, but were driven back, and from a corner undertaken by Docherty, an exciting time ensued, the play getting quite sultry in the vicinity of the Hotspur citadel.

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Still another corner came, and after that Ambler had to give yet another to a splendid shot by Galbraith, while a third followed almost immediately. Perrins placed this, and Coupar headed in beautifully, but Ambler saved well. The Spurs made a vigorous response, and from a centre by McElheney Wilson had a grand chance, which he threw away by heading high over the bar.

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McEwen now hurt himself, and had to retire, leaving Luton to do their best with—

McEwen now hurt himself, and had to retire, leaving Luton to do their best with only ten men. For a time the ten were rather disorganised, and the Spurs going full steam ahead, got the ball on several occasions in close proximity to Williams. Then Ekins, Molnes, and Stewart gave Ambler a little teasing at the other end, but the Spurs made another assault and Williams saving very finely from McElheney could not get the ball away, and Newbigging equalised.

McEwen had come on just in time to see this goal scored, and though he stayed for the remainder of the first half, he was practically useless. Tottenham as a consequence found themselves able to do a very fair amount of aggressive work, Payne in particular showing up brilliantly. But when the interval arrived, nothing further had been scored, and the teams crossed over with the record at one all.

Things did not look any too rosy for Luton, seeing that McEwen was not able to come on again and that they had to play the whole of the second 45 minutes with a man short. Davies went back, and Perrins had to divide his attention between the two positions, half-back and forward. A grand run by Molnes was the first feature of note, but he was not able to get clear, Allen nipping in and averting the danger.

Tommy next gave Galbraith a rare opening, placing the ball at his feet, but Galbraith's shot was a wretched affair, and he missed another chance directly afterwards from a centre by Ekins. Then the latter had a run on his own, and finished up with a magnificent curling shot, which hit the bar, a performance that evoked any amount of applause.

Williams having given a corner to a shot from McElheney, and Briggs having nullified by skying the ball, Luton returned to the attack, Molnes passed to Ekins, and the latter made a brilliant run, winding up with a shot which gave Ambler not the ghost of a chance. The cheers which followed were not a whit less enthusiastic than the handshaking bestowed upon Ekins by the skipper, and everybody except the Tottenham contingent seemed to be very happy indeed.

Luton having established the lead, Perrins went half-back, and Galbraith took his place at outside right, signalling his appearance there almost immediately by putting in a centre, from which Molnes called upon Ambler to save. The Spurs were not done with, however, for they were quickly at the other end, and from a centre by McElheney, Newbigging had the goal at his mercy, but shot miserably. A free kick gave the visitors another chance, but Williams saved at close quarters in first-rate style.

Both goals were then attacked in turn, and Williams distinguished himself by clearing from a centre by Payne, when Wilson and Newbigging were practically on top of him. Stewart lost an opportunity at the other end through miskicking, and then following some capital combination by Coupar and Galbraith, the latter shot, and Molnes put through.

The referee, however, disallowed the goal, a decision which was open to question, seeing that Molnes seemed to follow all the way up, besides which Ambler appeared to play on the ball first. In less than a minute, the spectators applauded what they thought to be another goal, McCartney placing from a free kick, and the ball going in the net off Ambler's head. I suppose, however, the ball was adjudged to have been through before it came into contact with the custodian's cranium, as the point was not allowed.

Several good attempts by both sides were afterwards made, but there was no more scoring, and the game ended in a win for Luton by two goals to one. Certainly, no one could say that victory did not go to the better team, but all the same for that, it was a decided relief to the Luton people when the whistle sounded for the cessation of hostilities.

Luton have had the pleasure of meeting the Spurs no less than six times this season—three friendlies, one English Cup-tie, and two League matches. They have won five out of the six, and made one draw, the goals for Luton being 14, the goals against 3. This would seem to leave no question as to superiority, and yet, strangely enough, Luton have always regarded their meetings with the Spurs as being almost as dangerous as any in the list.

The win on Saturday was, of course, all the more creditable by reason of its having been secured with one short of the full complement. Williams defended his goal admirably, and is entitled to his full share of the credit attaching to the victory, while McCartney also did well, despite the fact that he was several times beaten by Payne. Davies likewise acquitted himself very successfully when he dropped into McEwen's place, and Stewart and Docherty were in splendid form at half-back. Perrins performed very creditably.

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McInnes again put in some very fine work, and Ekins showed still further improvement, the goal that he got alone entitling him to a large amount of praise. It was quite a pleasure to see him back in something like his old form. For the first quarter of an hour Galbraith played excellent football, but then fell off considerably until he went on the wing, when he and Coupar played a wonderfully clever game.

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As to the visitors, Payne was far and away the best of the bunch, but McElheney also did some first-rate work. Crump and Briggs performed well at half-back, and little Allen, who played centre-forward when Luton visited Northumberland Park, gave what under the circumstances must be regarded as a marvellous exhibition. He seemed to be quite a second McEwen. Ambler gave nothing away in goal. The referee was about as good as they make 'em.

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Luton have a tolerably stiff programme to get through during the Easter holidays. On Good Friday they entertain Rushden in a United League match, and on Saturday South Bank will be accommodated. On Easter Monday our old friends, Battlefield, will visit Luton, on Tuesday Luton will go to Loughborough to play the last of their United League matches, and on Wednesday they finish up at Gravesend, where they play the United.

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Luton will have far from an easy task in their struggle with Rushden, but the "grate fite" will be with Loughborough, where they will have to go for all they are worth if they hope to win.
