

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. RUSHDEN.

A BIG WIN.

The return United League match with Rushden on Monday did not occasion great anxiety as to the result and Luton remained unbeaten with a much improved goal-average from the visit of the Northamptonshire club. The dull weather accounted for the moderate dimensions of the crowd, and the rain made the going very heavy. In the home team, a trial was given to Catlin, of the Reserves, at centre-forward, and McCartney was absent owing to an injured leg, Davies taking his place. The Rushden men have lately substituted George, of the Reserves, for Baldrey in goal, and Ambridge came as a Reserve back. Mr. T. W. Saywell started operations promptly with the following 22:—

Luton: Williams; Davies and McEwen; Perrins, Stewart and Docherty; Gallacher, Coupar, Catlin, McInnes and Ekins.

Rushden: George; Ambridge and Lilley; Clarke, Bailey and Dunkley; Denton, Warmer, Bedinfield, Sale, and Bamford.

The first half was rather scrambling, and though Luton were for the most part in Rushden territory they failed repeatedly to score. The visitors, on the other hand, defended stubbornly, and their speedy wing men created frequent "divarshuns" by breaking clear.

Catlin showed very promising form in the centre, and from one of his neat passes Coupar missed by miles. McInnes was given offside when on the point of heading through, while Ekins disappointed the crowd twice with wild attempts. The visitors were never idle, and kept things moving all round. The left wing showed some fine play, and Davies had all his work cut out to clear.

It is a long time since Luton did so much pressing with so little result. McInnes was again ruled off-side, when he had practically beaten the goal-keeper. For a while, Rushden raised the seige, and Williams had three smart calls upon him, saving once in wonderful fashion when Bedinfield and Sale were right in front of him. But Luton soon resumed the aggressive, Ekins sending in a hot shot which rebounded from George's foot, and a couple of corners followed.

The visiting custodian was sorely tried and did splendidly, fisting and punting out with coolness and skill. A free-kick, taken by Docherty, brought a narrow escape for Rushden, Luton taking three corners in as many minutes. However, eight minutes before the interval, the ball was rushed through in a determined scrimmage, and Luton stood one up. Before the whistle was blown, Docherty showed up well, and Williams was paid a visit. Half-time score:

LUTON	..	..	...	1 goal
RUSHDEN	..	..	0	,,

On crossing over, Captain Stewart put Coupar in the centre and Catlin went inside, the change working admirably. Still, the visitors were first to press, and seemed bent on equalising. A corner to Rushden only enabled the home forwards to dash down the field, and McInnes and Catlin, brushing through all opposition, cleverly put on No. 2, only 4 minutes having passed.

The play of the locals began to improve in combination and science. A swift run by Gallacher produced a corner, McInnes aiming too high, and Catlin nearly breaking through afterwards. Some smart play by Catlin characterised another onslaught by the Luton forwards, and Gallacher sent in a terrific "powder" shot, which re-bounded from inside the net. Of course, Mr. Saywell awarded a goal. Only 4 minutes afterwards, Ekins made a splendid run down his wing, and from his centre, Coupar scored No. 4 with a flying shot.

The crowd were now in good humour, and though Rushden played pluckily to the last, there was no doubt as to the winning team. Luton took four corners in succession, and Stewart made a fine attempt, Gallacher also skimming the cross-bar. Rushden forced an occasional corner, Williams having one or two teasers. At the other end, Catlin missed badly a good opening, but atoned for it soon afterwards by scoring No. 5, after George had partially cleared.

Only five minutes remained for play, and during this period Ekins got clear, but the keeper repulsed his shot. Offside was given twice against the home forwards, and Rushden, making a final spurt, managed to secure a couple of corners. No more scoring was done, and the result was :

LUTON	..	..	..	5 goals
RUSHDEN	..	..	..	0 „