

FOOTBALL.

LUTON DEFEATED AT WALSALL.

PLAYER ORDERED OFF THE FIELD.

Saturday the "stripes" had their first encounter with the Walsall team in the Second Division of the League and came a cropper, the unexpectedly heavy score of five to none being piled up against them. The Luton players, whose ranks include Caesar Jenkyns (of Newton Heath), have been going extremely badly lately, and only on the previous Monday they ran Chester City to a goal at Manchester. It was, therefore, expected that the Lutonians would have to put up with defeat; but it was certainly not imagined that the margin would be anything like so heavy. On Saturday morning in reasonable time, the Luton team journeyed to Birmingham on Friday night and the hardware city. They resumed the journey on Saturday, being joined by Coupar, who had been on his honeymoon.

Here:—

Goal, Bunyan; backs, Peers and C. L. Aston; half-backs, Wilkes, Jenkyns and Taggart; forwards, Devey (centre), Griffin (left wing).

Walsall: Goal, Williams; backs, McCartney; half-backs, Davies, Stewart and Edwards; forwards, Gallacher and Coupar (right wing), Little and McInnes (left wing).

Walsall (Derby).

The game was not of the best; but there was a large attendance, some 3,000 spectators turning out. Walsall won the toss, allowed the Lutonians to have the advantage of the slope in the first half. The Lutonians advanced well and worked in such style as to give the Walsall players a deal of trouble. Early in the game James Jenkyns, who was wide and his example was emulated by James Holmes, centred smartly from the touch-line. A centre forward from Notts. County) headed past Williams into the net. It was held by some that the point was open to the ground of off-side; but inasmuch as the goal was made by the "stripes" the goal was to count. This success of the home lot led to the Lutonians rousing themselves considerably. The Lutonians were responsible for some excellent combinations, but their final work when near goal was not of the best, and chances were allowed to pass without advantage being taken of them. On one occasion the visit-forward attacked so well that they seemed certain to equalise, when C. L. Aston came to the rescue of the Walsall side and headed away smartly. Jenkyns was conspicuous hereabouts for capital tackling, while at one time a shot from one of the visitors travelled over the goal. Bunyan was called upon to handle twice in rapid succession and he at length managed to clear; but the Walsall was returned with great celerity and nothing but the quickness of Peers with his head saved the home team from downfall, that player heading away as the ball appeared to be travelling into the net. At the end Williams gave a fine sample of custodianship arising from Holmes when the forwards were upon a bunch. The Luton players by no means reaped the fruits of their efforts, for several long-range shots were fired at the home goal; but all of them were wide of the mark or were saved by the defence.

The game had been in progress about half-an-hour when an addition was made to the home total, the goal being scored in somewhat peculiar fashion. A Walsall player was sent in by Griffin and both Holmes and Jenkyns declined to play the ball as they recognised that it was in an off-side position. The Luton men appealed to the referee, and while they were thus occupied Devey dashed up and scored. The granting of the goal necessarily afforded dissatisfaction to the Walsall players, but their protests were of no avail. A third goal was not long in coming, for Walsall pressed forward and Willy and Holmes headed through when close to the goal. Subsequently play became rough and an incident led to C. L. Aston being ordered off the field. It seems that Coupar got at loggerheads with Aston, who struck him, though the Walsall back denied that the Lutonian had commenced the attack by kicking him. The referee saw the blow and after consulting with the linesmen, concluded that he had no alternative but to order Aston to quit the field, which he accordingly did, despite the fact that the Lutonians joined in the appeal to him to prevent him from taking so serious a step. Thus the Luton men had to finish the game with 10 men only. The position of affairs when ends were changed was:

WALSALL, 3; LUTON, 0.

During the interval Holmes replaced Aston at back and the game was finished with only four forwards. Immediately after the re-start Johnson broke through the Walsall defence and he appeared to have the goal at his mercy, but he lodged the ball in the hands of the keeper in the net. This failure was atoned for by the Walsall players, however, who in very little time afterwards scored a fourth after a scrimmage. It had been anticipated that the weakening of the home ranks would be of great service to the Lutonians; but this was far from the case, the homesters giving a far better display than that of their opponents. After the scoring of the fourth point the operations became very rough and the interposition of the referee was called for all the time. At one period Johnson, who accepted the pass from Griffin, skimmed the bar. At the end Donaldson threatened danger and Peers headed away admirably. Subsequently the "stripes" were desperately to reduce the strong lead which Walsall had established and more than once seemed likely to succeed. Bunyan was called upon to preserve his charge from capture, and on one occasion he only succeeded in clearing the ball with difficulty. At length the referee awarded a penalty-kick against Luton, and J. Aston headed the fifth goal from it. The Lutonians failed to score and so were badly beaten as follows:—

WALSALL, 5; LUTON, 0.