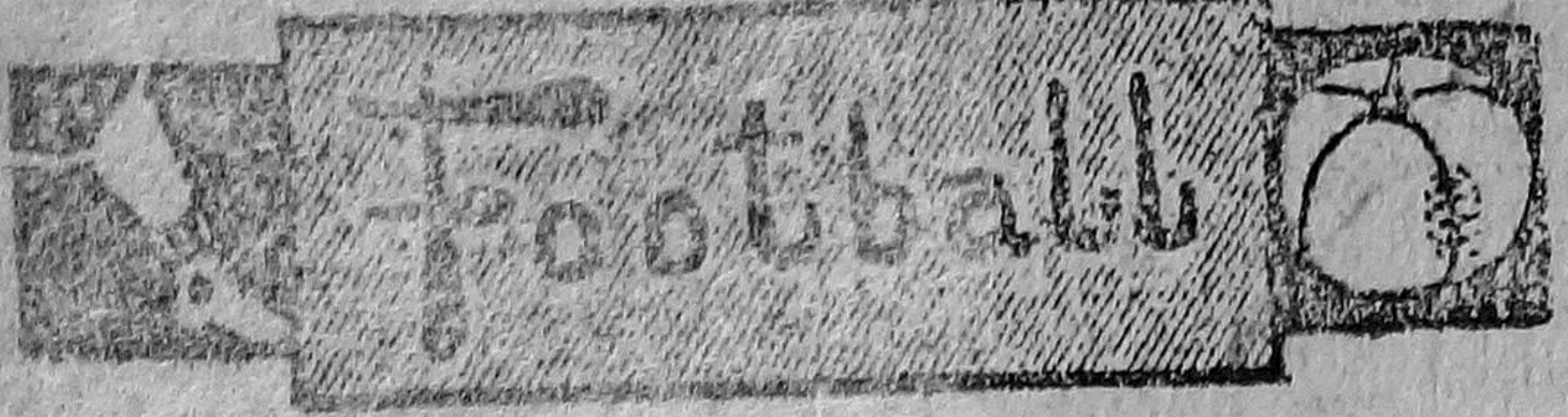




SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON V. WALSALL.

A SORRY EXHIBITION.

The Luton men began their journey to Walsall on Friday night. They slept at Birmingham, and penetrated the black country on Saturday morning. Coupar, fresh from his honeymoon, arrived just in time for the match. Failing him, Catlin had been taken. The crowd was a big one, and expected tall things from a team that had so successfully wiped out Manchester City. Unfortunately for Luton, they never got into their proper stride, and the exhibition, on the whole, was disappointingly weak, and spoilt by foul play. Who were the greatest sinners I am not prepared to say, but with all due allowance for partial criticism by a local journalist, I fear it must be confessed that the Lutonians are not free from blame.

The referee was Mr. Hall, of Derby. The Luton team was as follows:—

Luton—Williams; McCartney and McEwen; Davies, Stewart, and Docherty; Gallacher, Coupar, Donaldson, Little, and McInnes.

Walsall were strongly represented. Having lost the toss, they kicked off. For 20 minutes Bunyan, the Walsall custodian, had a warm time. The home defence was completely outplayed, and McCartney and McEwen, for Luton, were spoiling the forwards with chronological regularity. But at last little "Mac" allowed Holmes to get through on the right, and Devey getting down in goal met his business-like pass instantly, and landed the ball in the rigging.

This was distinctly lucky, for it was practically Walsall's first appearance in Luton's quarters, whereas the visitors had been unable to draw blood after 20 minutes' vigorous attack. The score had a great effect upon both elevens, although the visitors pluckily returned to the charge. Luck, however, did not come their way, and the second point, in favour of Walsall, was a glaring instance.

The ball was sent across to the Walsall right wing, where Aston and Holmes stood in palpably offside positions. Cautioned by their own rearguard, neither of them touched the ball, but whilst the Luton men were appealing for an infringement of the offside law, Devey rushed in, and before McEwen could turn, flashed the ball into the net, giving Williams no earthly chance of effecting a clearance.

This unfortunate disaster practically settled the match. The spectators shouted themselves hoarse, and the Luton men became annoyed that while they held the best hand Walsall were taking the tricks. A galloping riot set in, and the referee, a Derbyshire man, made his presence felt. In the midst of the fuss, Aston, the left back, collided with Donaldson and Coupar, and being accidentally kicked by the latter, lost his temper, and struck "Jimmy" violently. After consultation with the linesmen, Mr. Hall sent Aston to the pavilion, in spite of a sportsmanlike protest from the body of the Luton eleven that he should be allowed to remain.

The occurrence was regretted all round, and the crowd "booed" themselves hoarse, and were only appeased when their pets increased their lead to 3-0 at half-time, Holmes doing the necessary.

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necessary.

On resuming, Walsall gained a fourth goal almost from the kick-off although they were playing only 10 men. McCartney was the next culprit. After some even play, followed by a spurt by the Walsall left, he fouled an opponent within the 12 yards limit, under the eye of the referee, who straightway gave a penalty. To the finish Walsall held their own, and an unsatisfactory game ended in their favour by 5 goals to 0.

The *Leader*, commenting upon the game, says: McEwen was probably the best man in the Luton ranks, Davies, McCartney, and Docherty spoiling their display by paying more attention to their opponents' limbs than to the ball, and the fact that Walsall obtained two goals in the second half with only ten men and kicking uphill, while the visitors failed to score, points to the weakness of the Luton attack. Luton undoubtedly tarnished their reputation by the exhibition they gave on Saturday last."

LUTON CLARENCE V. ST. ALBANS ST. PETER'S.—This match was played on the Clarence ground on Saturday, when a good game was seen. The home team won the toss and kicked uphill, and at once pressed, at half-time leading by 2 goals to nil. Two more points were scored to the visitors' one, the game thus ending in a win for the home team by 4 goals to 1. The goals were scored by Cawdell 2, Deacon 1, and Brandon 1. The Clarence were as follows:—Goal, R. Hickiebottom; backs, C. Robinson (captain) and S. Young; halves, H. Lawson, P. Healey, and A. Inns; forwards, W. Edge, A. Ansell, A. Brandon, T. Cawdell, and G. Deacon. The Clarence play Luton Hoo to-morrow.

LEA RANGERS V. LUTON GARFIELD.—This match was played on the East Ward Recreation Ground on Saturday. The Rangers scored 2 goals in the first half, and by the aid of Brown and Crick put on a like number in the second half, thus winning the match by 4 goals to nil. Rangers' team: Smith, Gooch and Brown; Cook, Patterson, Crick; H. Lane, W. Cole, Beckwith, H. Brown, and O. Millard.

LUTON UNITED V. KENSWORTH.—These teams met on the ground of the United on Saturday, and the home team won by 1 goal to nil, B. White scoring from a pass by E. Richardson. The United mustered: J. Geerds, goal; H. Lawrence and J. Gurney, backs; S. Mowles, F. Chapman, and A. Richardson, halves; J. Fairburst, F. Webb, J. Abrahams, E. Richardson, and B. White, forwards. The Kensworth goalkeeper, Mr. Watts, who belongs to a Cambridge College team, played a capital game, and saved them from a bigger defeat, as the United pressed throughout the game. Mr. G. Sills refereed in a most capable manner.