

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. SOUTHAMPTON.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton Town	2 goals.
Southampton	nil.

The teams were as follow:—

Luton: Williams, goal; Davies and McEwen, backs; Birch, Stewart and Docherty, half-backs; Gallacher, Coupar, Donaldson, McInnes and Catlin, forwards.

Southampton: Clawley, goal; Nicol and Haynes, backs; Reynolds, Chadwick and McMillan, half-backs; Brown, Buchanan, McLean, Stevens and Keay, forwards.

Referee, Mr. J. C. Tillotson.

It looked very much as though Southampton were afraid of being beaten on Monday, and therefore determined beforehand that the victory, except for the points, should be a very barren honour for Luton. Turner, Farrell and Yates were omitted from the front string, and Petrie was given a rest at half-back. Their substitutes were, of course, fairly capable men, but still the eleven was not a thoroughly representative one, and the satisfaction of licking them was lessened on that account.

The fact that Luton had to rely upon a rather weak team balanced matters somewhat, but the match was necessarily robbed of a great deal of its interest. The weather was again delightfully fine, and about a couple of thousand persons turned out to witness the game, which was quite as large a crowd as the management could have anticipated, having regard to the little that was done to boom the event.

After a pretty even opening, in which some long kicking was shown, matters took a somewhat sensational turn through the instrumentality of a foul by the visitors. Davies placed beautifully, and McInnes scored with a lovely shot. The cheering which greeted this performance was immense, and the enthusiasm aroused on the grand stand never cooled down during the whole of the first half.

The Luton men continued to attack, and a

foul against Chadwick gave them another chance, but Donaldson just failed in his effort to turn Davies' kick to account. Coupar next shot just by the upright, and the visitors then getting away, Davies cleared well from a curling shot sent in by Chadwick. Pretty work by Donaldson and Gallacher followed, and Nicol missing Gallacher's centre, McInnes obtained and sent close by the post.

Directly afterwards, Catlin put in the mouth of goal, and Stewart had the chance of a lifetime; but somehow or other, he could not get the ball in the right spot for his kick, and the shot, which was a tame one, rebounded off a Southampton man. McInnes put in again, but after a scrimmage, the visitors cleared. Several other attempts were made, however, and at last a hot shot from Stewart grazed the upright.

The play, which had opened very smartly, now rapidly degenerated, the busiest man on the field perhaps, being the referee, whose whistle was always going. Undoubtedly, the fouling was begun by the visitors, but why on earth were Luton so foolish as to play into their hands by retaliating? I suppose it is a case of the natural man getting the better of the footballer.

On one occasion, the Southampton right wing got away, but McEwen proved a stumbling-block. Buchanan, apparently, did not like it, and he was seen putting himself in a threatening attitude. At the next opportunity, McEwen endeavoured to get on even terms, and the consequence was that both men received a caution. After two or three fruitless attacks by the visitors, Luton again acted on the aggressive, and Gallacher forced a corner, from which Catlin headed in, and Clawley punched out.

Gallacher followed on with another fine middle, and Catlin dropping the ball immediately in front of Clawley, it was rushed through, only for the goal to be disallowed on the ground that the custodian had been impeded. The subsequent play was of a very uninteresting character, the most noteworthy performance being a grand shot from Gallacher, which Clawley saved by putting over the bar. Two or three smart shots followed upon the corner, but nothing more substantial, and when the interval arrived, Luton were leading by a goal to nil.

Brown, who was yards offside, was the first to get in a shot when the game was resumed, but Williams easily saved, and a little later, the Luton custodian had to save from Chadwick. The homesters were not showing much earnestness just now, and a lot of work was put in to little purpose.

Then Donaldson obtained a corner, which Docherty placed, and McInnes headed behind. A centre by Catlin led to good shots by Stewart and Docherty, the latter's going just over the bar at the moment that Clawley was interfered with by Donaldson. Docherty, from a free kick, obtained another corner, but a little later, Brown made the running for the visitors, only to find more than his match in McEwen. Gallacher next had two or three good openings, but his shots were all too high.

After a number of free kicks, which were about evenly divided, Donaldson hit the bar with a good shot, and Clawley failing to get the ball more than a few yards from goal, Gallacher and Coupar made a rush, the former carrying the ball into the mouth of goal, and Jimmy putting on the finishing touch. Thus Luton were two up.

For some time now, the play ruled very much in favour of the homesters, and McInnes and Donaldson both had the satisfaction, or the dissatisfaction, of scoring offside goals. This knocked a little of the steam out of them, and Southampton took up the attack, but rarely became dangerous, Keay alone getting in a real good shot, and that was headed away by McEwen. In the last few minutes, Luton were again making overtures, but no alteration in the score was effected, and the homesters thus won by two goals to nil.

As I have already said, what might have been a good game was completely spoiled by the large number of free kicks, which necessarily destroyed all chance of combination. On the play, Luton were all over the better team, and double the number of goals would not have misrepresented the state of the game.

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Clawley kept goal well, though he went about his work with the air of a superior person. Haynes played a good game at back, but Nicol made a number of miskicks. Chadwick was the best of the halves, but he was run pretty close by Macmillan, whereas Reynolds, the old International, was completely out of the hunt. He is evidently a "good old has-been." Buchanan and Keay were the pick of the forwards.

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With regard to the Luton team, Williams discharged his not very arduous duties in a way that showed he could easily have done more had the necessity arisen. McEwen played a dashing game at back, and Davies did some useful work. Stewart was in fine form at half-back, and Docherty and Birch rendered valuable assistance. The forward play was fairly good, but not brilliant.

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It seems to me that Donaldson, who is a great worker, would have far more opportunities for scoring, and would get a good deal less knocking about, if he parted with the ball more freely. His dribbling is very pretty to look at, especially as he shows plenty of dash with it, but the passing game would be more effective, and would give him considerably more freedom from the attention of opponents.

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Gallacher played well on the wing, though his shooting left something to be desired, but Coupar was not quite up to his usual form in the second half. McInnes was as active as ever, and Catlin gave a very fair exhibition on the outside left. He was a little slow in putting in his centres, but otherwise played a very good game.

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In a Half-Century