

NEWCASTLE UNITED DEFEATED.

A MERE VICTORY.

When Luton Town defeated Manchester City in the League Second Division on the first day of the present year it was observed that this was doing a good turn to Newcastle United, who were making a bold bid for second place on the League table, and subsequent events have proved this to be correct. On Saturday morning the United were but a single point behind the Mancunians with a game in hand, and the encounter accordingly gained in importance from the bearing it might be expected to have upon the competitors for the honour of figuring in the test matches, and it was fully anticipated hereabouts that the "stripes" would do a good turn to the City by defeating the Newcastle lot. This formed the first meeting of the rival sides and there was little reliable evidence on which to form a judgment as to the probable outcome. It was remembered, however, that the United had failed at Southampton in the English Cup tie a week previously, and it was felt that what the "seasiders" could accomplish the Lutonians ought also to be able to manage. The contending clubs had called upon their strongest available sides. For the United the names finally selected were those of the players who had performed at Southampton, while the Lutonians had McCartney and Davies back in their customary positions and Birch figuring on the left wing in lieu of Little, whose recent displays have not been giving anything like satisfaction. The Newcastle team journeyed southwards on Friday and put up for the night in London, proceeding to Luton on Saturday forenoon. They were reported by Mr. Watt (the Secretary) to be in first-rate trim. It had been thought that there would be a large "gate" and excursion trains from London had been arranged; but for some reasons unexplained the attendance did not realise expectations. There were not, indeed, more than about 3,000 present. The conditions were regarded as being favourable to the Lutonians, for the ground was distinctly on the soft side as the result of rain and frost.

The sides were constituted thus:—

Luton: Goal, Williams; backs, McCartney and McEwen; half-backs, Davies, Stewart, and Docherty; forwards, Gallacher and Coupar (right), Donaldson (centre), McInnes and Birch (left).

Newcastle United: Goal, Watts; backs, White and Jackson; half-backs, Ghee, Ostler and Stott; forwards, Allan and Harvie (right), Peddie (centre), Smith and Campbell (left).

Referee, Mr. J. Stark; neutral linesmen, Messrs. J. H. Taylor (Aspley Guise) and A. Peters (Kettering).

Campbell (left). Referee, Mr. J. Stark; neutral linesmen, Messrs. J. H. Taylor (Aspley Guise) and A. Peters (Kettering).

Stewart was once more unsuccessful in the toss and the locals started from the railway end. There was little disadvantage in this, however, for there was no wind to speak of. The visiting forwards were first to become prominent, and Davies cleared. From another attack McEwen followed suit, and subsequently Stott pulled up the home right wingers smartly. Donaldson was applauded for a shot at goal which though unsuccessful was a good one. McCartney relieved and the home centre forward again became conspicuous. The operations were already very fast and exciting, both sides exerting themselves well. A dangerous run by the United left wingers was stopped by Smith getting off-side. Gallacher was checked by a similar infraction, McEwen finding it requisite to clear from the free-kick. A foul against Stewart for holding an opponent did not long deter the locals, for in the next minute a corner was forced by Birch. Docherty sent in grandly from this; but Watts fisted away well. McCartney sent into goal excellently, though without the desired result accruing. Off-side stopped the visitors' right, and then the left wingers put in a capital run. Gallacher sent behind with an overhead shot. The home right got under weigh neatly from a well-judged pass by Donaldson; but when Coupar seemed almost certain to score the ball cannoned off an opponent. Just later McCartney effected an admirable clearance at the home end, while following a foul against Jackson, who was unduly vigorous just now, the ball was steered over the Newcastle goal-line. The United right wing pair advanced by means of pretty passing; but they were soon stopped, the Luton defenders playing a fine game. Gallacher managed to get clear and struck the bar with a fast shot, and when the ball rebounded into play Birch had little difficulty in scoring the first goal of the match. This initial success fell to the home lot when play had been in progress about a quarter of an hour, and the spectators expressed their gratification in no half-hearted fashion. The visitors made a clamorous appeal to the referee; but Mr. Stark awarded the point. After the re-start Campbell put in a hot shot which Williams saved well, and a second attempt by the same player was adjudged to have been made from an off-side situation. A nasty foul was committed on Donaldson by Ostler and another on Coupar by Stott, the little right winger being badly charged in the back. The exhibition of roughness by Newcastle led to a demonstration on the part of some grand-stand occupants, whereupon Mr. Staddon sternly cautioned the offenders. An impertinent observation by one of the malcontents drew from the director the outspoken declaration that "We don't mean to have our ground closed." McCartney became prominent on two occasions, Campbell once being pulled up very neatly. Birch was responsible for a good run which led to Stott effecting a good clearance. McEwen gave a capital exhibition, while Jackson conceded a corner to Coupar. From this Gallacher sent well into the mouth of goal and a big struggle ensued. Stewart headed in and Donaldson wound up by sending the ball past Watts. It seemed to most, however, that the goal had to be credited to the home captain, the ball appearing to go over the line from his header. Following the resumption the "stripes" attacked and Watts was called upon to clear. Birch became prominent for some good play, after which Smith fouled Coupar very badly. Birch sent over the goal-line from the free-kick. McCartney was cheered for a splendid clearance and Stott was punished, for a foul on Coupar, the right-winger being badly tripped when he was becoming dangerous. Some exciting play near the Newcastle goal resulted from the free-kick and Jackson presented his opponents with a further corner. Smith was penalised for fouling Davies and a couple of free-kicks were awarded against Ostler for rough play and Peddie for off-side. Allan later on shot splendidly from the extreme wing and the ball appeared to be going in just under the bar when Williams effected a wonderful save. Jackson landed the ball on the net with a long attempt, and Smith steered wide of the mark. After more first-rate work by McCartney Peddie secured and shot finely, Williams making a grand save. Two or three of the United forwards tried their hand at shooting; but the custodian was proof against all their efforts. Stewart next headed into the goal-mouth and Coupar missed what appeared to be an excellent chance of adding to the home total. Gallacher called upon Watts to exert himself, and then Williams had to save from Allan. The Luton right wingers became dangerous once more, the keeper being called upon to clear. Davies rushed up when Gallacher was palpably off-side and sent across to McInnes, who promptly sent into the net, thus scoring what appeared to be a grand goal. The referee at first seemed inclined to concede the point; but after consultation with one of the neutral linesmen (Mr. Peters) he disallowed the appeal, much to the dissatisfaction of the spectators. The point certainly seemed legitimate, McInnes being behind the ball when Davies played it. Nothing further of importance transpired before half-time, which arrived a minute later, and so the positions at the time for crossing over were:

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LUTON, 2; NEWCASTLE, 0.

In the second half Campbell and Peddie exchanged positions, a change which worked extremely well. The first event of importance was a foul by Donaldson on Ostler, this being followed by several throws-in on the Newcastle right. From a foul on Donaldson Docherty sent high over the bar. Next a corner was forced by Luton, Watts clearing. An exciting scrimmage ensued in the Newcastle goal and it seemed certain that a score would accrue; but the danger was averted by the coolness of the visitors' rearguard. The United attacked smartly, Docherty clearing in a manner that was thoroughly appreciated by the onlookers. Jackson became conspicuous for good defensive work, following which Gallacher dashed off at high speed and struck the side of the net with an exceedingly hot shot. Davies centred neatly to McInnes, who sent behind, being bowled over mercilessly as he was steadying himself to shoot. Jackson again distinguished himself, a foul being subsequently awarded against Davies. Gallacher terminated a strong attack by sending out erratically, a performance which was emulated by Harvie when that player had worked his way up well. McInnes made a gallant attempt to score, Stott managing to get in the way in the nick of time. Campbell raced away at high speed, hotly pursued by Davies, and as the forward neared the 12 yards line he was pushed in the back. The resultant free-kick was not productive. More excellent work was credited to Jackson, as the result of which Allan was placed in a position for testing Williams. The keeper seemed to misjudge the ball and it rolled into the net, much to the chagrin of the spectators. Thus the home lead was reduced with a goal which was distinctly lucky. The United were stimulated by this success and they played up so strenuously afterwards as to lead the home supporters to conclude that the result was by no means a certainty for Luton, as they had begun to fondly imagine. An especially sturdy attack was grandly repelled by the Lutonians, Stewart being in the thick of the fray. Gallacher obtained possession and set off at top speed down the wing; by this time the visitors had awoke to the fact that the right-winger was to be watched and the outcome was that "Gally" was too much impeded to become dangerous just now. In the next minute, though, the same player sent across splendidly, this leading to a neat clearance by Watts. A foul against the "black and white" on McInnes was noticed, Birch missing rather badly from the free-kick. From a centre by Peddie Harvie shot swiftly and Williams saved. Donaldson next broke through in characteristic style and the result of a single-handed run was that the home centre man scored a glorious goal. The enthusiastic applause which greeted this feat was thoroughly deserved. This renewed success was regarded as putting the issue beyond doubt, inasmuch as there was but about a quarter of an hour to play. The homesters were now on good terms with themselves, and they continued to give a capable show. The United were by no means done with, however, for on one occasion they managed to get the ball into the net. The whistle had previously blown for off-side, though, and so the notch did not count. Stott dealt unmercifully with McCartney, who had been playing a grand forcing game. McEwen sent up nicely from the free-kick and Watts was required to exert himself. Then Donaldson headed in from an off-side position, and Ghee was penalised for a laughable sample of deliberate handling. From the free-kick Stewart headed over the bar. Williams saved neatly from Smith, while Docherty kicked away finely when Stewart had been

pulled up for fouling Campbell. This was an especially narrow shave for the locals for a score seemed certain when the left half dashed across splendidly. Watts brought down the house with a magnificent save from Donaldson and Coupar while on the ground. More fouls were taken cognisance of by the referee, and an unproductive corner to Luton was the last event of interest in the game. The eventual result was a well-merited victory for the better side on the day's play with the following figures:

LUTON, 3; NEWCASTLE, 1.