

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WOOLWICH ARSENAL.

"STRIPES" LOSE AT PLUMSTEAD.

On Monday Luton and Woolwich Arsenal met for the second time this season, and for the second time were the Lutonians beaten by an odd goal. The game, played at Plumstead, was in connection with the United League competition. The conditions were favourable for football, there being little wind or sun, while the ground was in good condition. Only about 1,500 spectators, however, put in an appearance. Both teams were strongly represented, the Luton side being identical to that which met Manchester on Saturday. They lined up thus:—

Luton: Goal, Perkins; backs, Dow and Moore; half-backs, C. Ford, Sharp and Hewitt; forwards, Durrant and McInnes (right), Kemplay (centre), W. Ford and Ekins (left).

Arsenal: Goal, Ord; backs, Fyfe and McConnell; half-backs, Moir, Dick, and Anderson; forwards, Brock and White (right), Hunt (centre), Hannah and Mitchell (left).

The referee was Mr. J. C. Tillotson, and the Luton linesman, Mr. E. F. Walsh.

The visitors won the toss and defended the goal at the roadway end in the first half. Hunt kicked off and the Arsenal forwards at once went down the field, but Dow relieved finely and the Luton forwards were next found attacking. Ekins twice hit the posts early in the game and once Ord made a sensational save from the Luton outside left, springing right across the goal and knocking the ball out. The Woolwich men, however, were soon at it again and gave Perkins some work to do, the Luton man making some good saves. Ten minutes from the start Hannah opened the scoring with a fine shot. The game was fast and exciting, but the homesters were now doing most of the pressing. The Luton men were defending well and the Arsenal rearguard was also kept busy at times, both sets of defenders playing strongly. The spectators became excited, too, but their behaviour was not of the best, some of the Luton players being chipped unmercifully. Just before half-time the Arsenal scored a second time, this goal being the result of a brilliant individual effort by Hunt. Thus when half-time came the score read:—

ARSENAL, 2; LUTON, 0.

It was not long after the resumption ere the home side's lead was still further increased. The Lutonians again led off and caused Ord to handle, but Fyfe cleared, and after pretty passing by Moir and Brock, the latter sent across to Mitchell, who scored. Although three goals behind the Luton fellows did not lose heart, but played up stronger than ever. Success soon crowned their efforts. Three corners were forced in rapid succession, and from the third the ball came out of a scrimmage to Charlie Ford, who drove the ball through a veritable forest of legs into the goal, Ord not even being able to see the shot. Woolwich then had a turn at attacking, but although dangerous at times they could not penetrate the defence. Returning to the attack W. Ford sent in a hot drive which Ord met and stopped, but could not get away. The ball went to McInnes off Ord's fist and the Luton captain lost no time in registering a second goal for his side. The three goals scored in the second half were all obtained in about a quarter of an hour, and thereafter Arsenal had the best of the exchanges, although unable to score. A number of fouls were given against both sides, but most of them were for trivial offences. Indeed, on numerous occasions Mr. Tillotson penalised C. Ford for supposed infringements of the rules that no one else could detect, and other players were also victims of the referee's fussiness. The elder Ford came on strongly towards the finish and made a couple of fine runs, but on both occasions he finished tamely. Although working well the Luton players did not make much headway, this being attributable to the indifferent feeding of the forwards by the half-backs. Towards the finish of the game interest flagged somewhat, and neither side could take advant-

age of corners which fell to them. When the end came Luton had again failed to secure their first United League win, the totals being thus:—

ARSENAL, 3; LUTON, 2.