

UNITED LEAGUE

WOOLWICH ARSENAL v. LUTON.

A NARROW DEFEAT

On form, Luton did fairly well to only lose by a goal's margin at Manor-field, Plumstead, on Monday afternoon, considering that on October 9th last year, we lost on the same ground by 3 goals to nil, this being a Second League fixture. Little interest seemed to be taken in the game, as only 1100 spectators were present. The Luton team mustered in the same order as on Saturday, but the Arsenal made several changes from the eleven that made a draw with Millwall.

Heat being given another trial in the centre. The teams appeared under Mr. J. C. Tillotson's command as follows:

Woolwich Arsenal: Ord; Fyle and McConnell; Moir, Dick, and Anderson; Brock, Waile, Hunt, Hannah and Mitchell.

Leion: Perkins; Dow and Moore; C. Ford, Sharp, and Hewitt; Derrant, McIlwain, Kemplay, W. Ford, and Edna.

The visitors won the toss and made an even contest of it for a while. The Arsenal forwards were checked several times by Dow, but when they pressed hard, and after 10 minutes' play Hannah scored for them with a long cross shot. Encouraged by this, the Arsenal attacked with vigour, but their shooting was not true and Perkins was in good form.

From a corner, the Leion forwards became very dangerous, and W. Ford missed a fine chance. For some time, Leion had the best of the game, their play being superior all round. Just before the interval, however, Hunt made a grand individual run and scored No. 2 for his side, the half-time score being:

ARSENAL	..	..	..	2
LEION	..	..	..	0

The opening of the second half was marked by some very fast play, Ord having to use his hands. Then Fyle cleared, and the home forwards made a sustained attack, and after some pretty passing from Moir to Brock, the latter sent across to Mitchell, who registered the third point for the Arsenal, whose supporters were jubilant. But that Leion were not done with was even evident. Several fouls occurred which on both sides were accidental. At length, from some smart play in the Arsenal territory, G. Ford sent in a shot that Ord had no chance of stopping, and scored for the visitors; and a little later McIlwain added No. 2 for Leion. Both sides now played up with renewed vigour, and several corners fell to the Arsenal. Each however was unproductive, and nothing further being obtained, the game terminated with the score:

ARSENAL	..	..	..	3
LEION	..	..	..	2

NOTES.

The "Chronicle" says: "Woolwich Arsenal fully deserved their success over Leion Town, and if they had had their deserts their marginal advantage would have been bigger than one goal. As a matter of fact, up to the period when they had scored their third goal the superiority of the home side was not so clearly marked as in the remaining part of the game, during which Leion scored two goals to nothing.

"The most noticeable feature of the play was the attack of the Arsenal. In this the passing and the enticements were alike admirable, and if not too to chide Hunt, the Arsenal centre-forward, for occasional rashness, it must be added that the winners' second goal was due to a brilliant run half the length of the field by the old Darwenian. The chances made in the Arsenal front line were Ben Scul, and it is very clear that Hannah is much better than Dally as a partner for Mitchell.

"Leion failed chiefly because of the weakness of the half-backs, who were far too wild, and though the game abounded in free kicks, the fouls were for the most part indications of excitement. C. Ford, a brother of the forward, was the best of the Leion half-back trio; and the excellent defence of the goal-keeper, Perkins, and the two backs, Moore and Dow, is worthy of great praise. The best of the Leion forwards was McIlwain, the captain, and his skill was the more clearly demonstrated by reason of the impotence of his partners."

The "Daily Mail" comments as follows: "As far as regards the play there was little to choose between the teams until the first half was well advanced. Then some of the players indulged in questionable tactics, and the game, which had opened very fast, was utterly spoiled. Both sides were equally to blame in the remainder of the initial half, but afterwards Leion were the greater offenders, trips and foul charges causing the referee to keep hard at work with the whistle. When Leion had succeeded in reducing the Arsenal lead to the slender margin of a goal the exchanges were extremely hot, but the Arsenal had far more of the play than the opposition, and should certainly have done better in the matter of scoring."