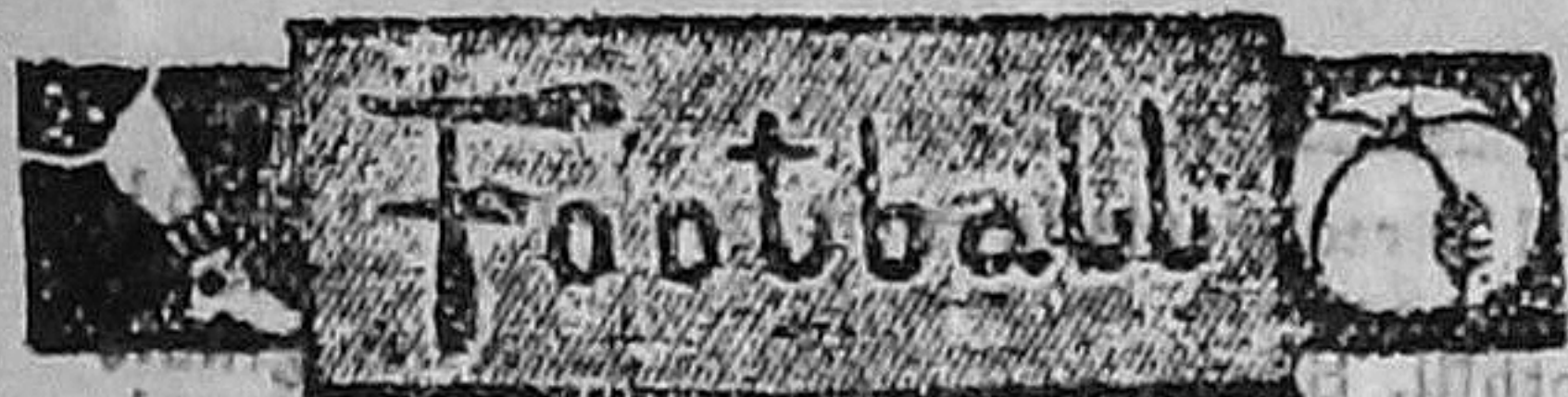




ENGLISH CUP.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

LOST OPPORTUNITIES MAKE A DRAW.

At this time last season, the chances of Watford drawing on Luton ground would have been ridiculed, but it is sad testimony to the decadence of the Town team to say that they deserved nothing better than Saturday's draw. On Walsall form, the tie looked almost a gift for Luton, and it seemed something like audacity for a Southern League 2nd Division team to expect anything but overwhelming defeat at Bury Park.

But Watford did not come to take a beating easily. Before Saturday they had played and won 10 matches, and boasted the extraordinary goal-average of 53 to 3, having ousted Chesham and Lowestoft in the previous stages of the English Cup. Two special trains conveyed nearly a thousand Watford supporters to Luton, despite the rainy afternoon. McInnes was too unwell to play and Ekins was not fit, thus greatly weakening the home forward line. Of special interest, however, was the re-appearance of Galbraith in his old position, and the favourite "centre" was warmly welcomed after a prolonged absence.

Mr. B. M. Lockyer refereed with the following teams:—

Luton: Perkins; Dow and Williams; W. Ford, Sharp, and C. Ford; Durrant, Kemplay, Galbraith, Brock and Hewitt.

Watford: Baker; A. Sharp, and Cother; Wood, F. C. Robins, and Marsh; Hare, Slaughter, Beach, McNee and Hill.

The ground was wet and slippery, making the ball difficult to control and the players' feet hold none too sure. Watford started without Robins and went away with a rush, but were sent back by the home backs, Galbraith then shooting wide. Dow checked a run by Hare, and then Perkins saved from Slaughter. For a few minutes, the visitors played only 4 forwards, but Robins now came on the field. Luton got dangerous, and a nice centre from Durrant should have been converted. A foul was given against Sharp, and play became fast and lively. Dow cleared from a rush on the home goal, and the game was stopped for an injury to C. Ford.

Watford came to the fore with some clever passing by Hill and McNee, who bothered the home defence a good deal. The left-winger sent in a hot shot to Perkins, but was offside. However, just 23 minutes after the start, Brock and Hewitt broke through, and Durrant, who was close up, popped the ball inside the post, thus scoring No. 1 for Luton. This greatly encouraged the locals, and the spectators cheered as if victory was assured.

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The succeeding play seemed to promise a romping win for Luton, for W. Ford at once sent in a hard "grounders" which Baker luckily kicked out. Directly afterwards, an exciting bully took place almost on the Watford goal-lines, and a score was averted miraculously. Hewitt banged the ball in again and Sharp fisted out, a penalty being, of course, awarded. The kick was entrusted to W. Ford; who sent the leather flying high over the bar, to the intense disappointment of the Luton spectators and the wild exultation of the Watfordians.

More exciting play followed. Williams headed out a centre by Hill, and from a corner to Luton, put in a fine long shot which Baker fetched over the line to put outside his goal. Galbraith appealed for a goal, but Mr. Lockyer gave the defenders the benefit of the doubt. From hands against W. Ford, Perkins had to save a shot by Hare. Galbraith made a grand single-handed run down the field, and would have scored but for the palpable holding by the Watford backs. Though Luton were having the best of the play, the visitors were always on the alert, and profiting by Williams's mis-kick, made a dashing onslaught. Perkins saved once from Slaughter, but Hare pounced on the ball and equalised amid great enthusiasm. Half-time was called immediately with the score :

LUTON	..	..	..	1 goal
WATFORD	..	..	..	1 ,,

Considering the numerous chances they had missed in the first half, the prospects of Luton were not very bright for the second. Only a minute after the kick-off, Beach, who had gone on the wing, made a clear run and Hare shot a totally unexpected goal, giving Watford the lead. The home team seemed to lose their heads after this and played in very loose fashion, failing to utilise two corners in succession. Watford were playing with confidence and energy. Perkins just saved a beauty from Slaughter at the expense of a corner, Williams again putting behind. Of course, this pressure evoked loud cheers from the visitors.

Durrant had hard lines in not converting a centre from the left, and then Hill forced a corner off Dow. Splendid work was being done by Galbraith, who caused Baker to run right out and gave Brock a lovely pass in front of goal, only to see him make an awful mess of the opening. The Watford men were defending soundly, and things began to look very blue for Luton. After another corner had gone begging, Durrant was fouled by Marsh and Dow placed the kick with fine judgment, a Lutonian's head sending the ball whizzing into the net. This equaliser came only 4 minutes before the finish and was hailed with great joy by the home crowd, who cheered on their men to "Another Walsall." Both sets of players struggled hard but the defence came out invincible, the result being :