

UNITED LEAGUE.

WELLINGBOROUGH v. LUTON.

AN AWFUL COLLAPSE.

The return encounter between these teams was played on the Town Ground, Wellingboro', on Monday afternoon, and, on recent form, the home representatives were expected to secure the points. On the opening day of the season, it will be remembered, Wellingborough visited Luton and made a draw, of one goal each, and that is the only point which Luton have to their credit for six matches played. Wellingborough have not such a good record as in the Midland League, having secured only 3 points out of a possible 8, but three of the four matches were away from home. The teams were:—

Wellingborough: Shawley; Bennett and Robson; Murrell, Martin, and Davies; Hall and Williams; Scriven; Raby and Hyde.

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

Referee: Mr. T. W. Saywell (Chatham).

There were two changes on each side from the teams that met at Luton early in the season, Dow and Kemplay taking the places of Ekins and McInnes in the Luton combination. In the Wellingborough eleven Bennett and Raby officiated in the places of Blackburn and A. Robinson. The weather was all that could be desired for football, but at the kick-off the attendance was barely 500.

Winning the toss, Luton took advantage of the wind, although this involved facing the sun. Wellingborough set the ball in motion punctually to time, and the forwards nicely lining up, Murrell put in a shot which dropped the ball just over the bar. Williams then called upon Perkins to handle with a low shot, and Luton then had a run down, but without becoming dangerous. Hall then tried with a stinger, but this and one just afterwards from Raby were splendidly cleared by Perkins. Moore deliberately handled from Hall, and being within the line the referee allowed a penalty. Murrell was entrusted with the kick, but to the surprise of the onlookers sent it to the wrong side of the upright, this being the easiest of several openings which the home forwards had failed to improve upon. Three minutes later, though, Wellingborough managed to get ahead, Raby crossing to Williams from a throw in, and the latter sent it with a shot from which Perkins had little chance, this being 20 minutes from the start.

Wellingborough continued to do pretty much as they pleased, Williams heading through from a centre by Hyde about 3 minutes after the first goal. Luton then made a solitary run, Dow ending not far wide of the mark. But the visitors were quickly forced back, and Hyde kicked over when he stood almost underneath the bar. As the interval drew near Luton did a little better. Durrant, when near the pavilion, placed on to the top of the net, and W. Ford

also put in a likely shot, but other efforts on their part came to nothing. At the other end from a kick from a foul Perkins again had a busy time, and but for the old Kettering man being in good form, Luton would have been left still further in arrears. On crossing over, the score was still :

WELLINGBOROUGH	..	2 goals
LUTON		0 ,,

On resuming, the home team attacked, Perkins saving grandly from Hyde and Raby. Williams looked like getting through when he was sandwiched between Moore and W. Ford, and falling on his head on the ground he had to be carried off the field. The game was very even for a time and then Williams returned and the home team again put on pressure. Soon after, Hall scored Wellingborough's third goal and from the kick-off the visitors went down the ground and Dow scored. Directly after, Hyde put on another for Wellingborough and this was followed in quick succession by Williams adding a fifth. Before the end Murrell and Scriven scored further goals and the game ended :

WELLINGBOROUGH	..	7 goals
LUTON		1 goal