

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

WELLINGBOROUGH v. LUTON TOWN.

Played at Wellingborough on Monday.

Result:—

Wellingborough 7 goals.

Luton Town 1 goal.

At the time Millwall were obtaining a very creditable victory over Rushden by three goals to nil, on Northamptonshire soil, Luton were undergoing a very severe thrashing at the feet of Wellingborough! Seven goals to one! Phew! It wants some explaining doesn't it? There is one thing about it that is certain, and that is, it is the biggest drubbing Luton has ever received since it ran a professional team.

The variation in form between Saturday and Monday is simply bewildering. On the first day the men played a champion game, having all the best of the battle with the League leaders except in the matter of scoring, and then, with only one alteration in the team, they go to Wellingborough and allow themselves to be sat on, pulverised, and made a byword and a reproach throughout the football world.

There is no doubt that Wellingborough are a much improved team. They beat Heanor on Saturday at Heanor by two goals to nil, and in many other ways they have given indications of ability, but it would take a lot to make one believe they are a clear half-dozen goals better than Luton. They forced the play on Monday from the very kick-off, and although they failed to convert a penalty, they soon obtained a couple of goals through Williams, that is their Williams, and they were leading by two to nothing at the interval.

Subsequently the play ruled more even, and for twenty minutes Luton managed to keep their opponents out, and on one or two occasions came very near scoring on their own account. Then Hall registered a third goal for Wellingborough, and this was replied to by one from Dow. After that, there was a complete collapse on the part of Luton, and Wellingborough piling on four more goals, ran out the winners as stated.

The Luton defence was not so bad as the score would imply. Moore again played a good game at back, and the Fords also put in a lot of work, but the forwards were simply nowhere. And I am afraid that without McInnes they would never be much better. We saw what they were like without him in the first match with Watford, and that "form" was fully maintained against Wellingborough.

The plain fact of the matter is that one or two good experienced men are badly needed, but whilst the gates are so poor as that of last Saturday, it is difficult to see how the directors are to launch out. Just fancy, a visit from the League leaders attracting only a paltry fifty-pound gate. How is it possible to incur fresh liabilities with such support as that?

The Luton team have now two very big jobs before them. On Saturday, they pay a visit to Small Heath, and on Monday they will be at home to Southampton. The latter ought to attract a very big crowd, especially as recent performances seem to show that they have got back into their best form.

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

CRUSHING DEFEAT AT WELLINGBOROUGH.

On Monday the Luton team journeyed to Wellingborough to meet the club of that town in the United League competition. The result was that the visitors sustained one of the biggest reverses in the history of the club, losing by seven goals to one. What makes this heavy defeat all the more remarkable is that never before had the Northants. men succeeded in lowering the colours of the Lutonians, while only last season in the United League Luton gained four points and nearly a score of goals in the two games with Monday's victors. The visitors had the same side as that which showed such good form on Saturday with the exception that Kemplay figured at inside right instead of McInnes. The following is how the sides were constituted:—

Wellingborough: Goal, Shawley; backs, Bennett and Robinson; half-backs, Murrell, Martin and Davis; forwards, Hall and Williams (right), Scriven (centre); Raby and Hyde (left).

Luton Town: Goal, Perkins; backs, Williams and Moore; half-backs, C. Ford, W. Ford and Crump; forwards, Durrant and Kemplay (right), Galbraith (centre), Hewitt and Dow (left).

Luton won the toss and play at once ruled in favour of the home men. Perkins was tested by Hall and Raby, acquitting himself well, and a penalty kick given for handling also failed to bring about the downfall of the Luton goal. Murrell it was who failed to take advantage of this opportunity to open the scoring. Within the next ten minutes, however, Williams, one of the Wellingboro' forwards, twice scored. Then the strangers pulled themselves together and attacked Shawley's charge, Dow and Durrant putting in good shots. After this the home forwards paid Perkins more visits, but failed to again net the ball before the interval, the half-time stage arriving with the position of affairs thus:

WELLINGBOROUGH, 2; LUTON, 0.

On resuming the Luton players showed improved form and the game was very even for twenty minutes or so, both custodians being afforded chances of distinguishing themselves. Then Hall scored for Wellingborough and Dow for Luton a minute later. Thereafter the tale from a Luton point of view is hardly what one might call inspiring. In the last quarter of an hour four more goals were notched by the home team, thus bringing about the following result:

WELLINGBOROUGH, 7; LUTON, 1.