

THE LEAGUE.—DIVISION II.

LUTON TOWN v. LOUGHBOROUGH.

Played at Loughborough on Saturday.
Result:—

Loughborough	4 goals.
Luton Town	1 goal.

The teams were as follow:—

Loughborough: Mumford; Hardy and Bailey; Parry, Hodgkin and Roulstone; Parker, Allan, Keech, Pegg and Pike.

Luton: Perkins; Dow and Moore; Sharpe, Williams and C. Ford; Durrant, Brock, Kemp-
play, Moloney and Birch.

Poor old Luton! In spite of Loughborough's manifest improvement in form, as evidenced by their victory over Barnsley by two goals to none, it was confidently hoped by a good many people that Luton would, by way of a change, pick up a couple of much-needed points away from home on Saturday, but that hope was doomed to disappointment. In fact, the Luton team enabled the Luffs to break their record by scoring more goals in a League match than on any previous occasion this season.

Personally, I cannot say that I was very much surprised by the result, nor do my sympathies run very strongly with those responsible for the selection of the players. Seeing that results can hardly be worse than they are, I cannot for the life of me understand why opportunity is not taken to bring some promising local men on. As a matter of fact, I think Saturday's team would have been positively strengthened by the inclusion of one or two of the Reserves.

As it is, a Reserve is occasionally put in as absolutely a last resource, he makes a good show, and then has to think himself lucky if he ever gets another chance. There was Ralley, for instance. He surprised us all by the excellent judgment he displayed in the Glossop match, and particularly by the way in which he stuck to Donaldson, and he has been on the shelf ever since. There may be some reason for it. I don't know him and have no brief for him. He may have been seriously ill or injured, or in some other way rendered unavailable, but apart from some such cause as that, it is extraordinary that his services should have been persistently ignored.

Then comes the case of Dimmock. He was tried in the match against Reading, and signalled his debut by taking a prominent part in the scoring of all three of Luton's goals. I don't argue from that that he has reached perfection, or that he would set the Thames on fire at the next time of asking. Creditably as he performed, it was clear that he suffered from lack of confidence, and that he would require much more spirit and dash to make him effective. Under any circumstances, however, I think that when local talent shows itself every opportunity should be given for its development, and such a course is especially desirable in the case of a Club occupying Luton's present position.

There are other Reserves who are equally well worth looking after, and it seems to me the greatest pity in the world that splendid opportunities of education should be so completely neglected. Those opportunities could be freely taken without any injury to the immediate prospects of the Club, and with possibly great advantage to the future. The worst of it is, they may never occur again.

* * *

Spend your money to the best advantage, by purchasing your boots and shoes at Freeman, Hardy and Willis, 38, George-street, Luton, the largest boot retailers in the kingdom. New goods for present season. See windows and compare prices.—[ADVT.]

* * *

Having eased my mind on this subject, and expressed views which will be almost certain to bring me into disgrace with some whose good opinion I value very highly, I will now refer for a moment or two to Saturday's game. It does not call for many words. To be handsomely beaten by Loughborough is about the very worst disaster that could happen to any Club this season, except perhaps a similar defeat by Darwen or Blackpool, and Luton have almost drained the cup of sorrow to the very dregs.

* * *

There was but a poor attendance at the Athletic Ground, Loughborough, for the Luffs are naturally in bad odour with their supporters. Their indifferent displays are nothing fresh and have not been confined to this season. With Luton, reverses coming one after another and as a matter of course are a comparatively new experience; with Loughborough they are and have been chronic. But when Greek meets Greek, then comes the tug of war, and on Saturday the Luffs tugged harder and better and to more effect than Luton, and that is how it was they won.

* * *

At first Luton played up rather strongly, and from a centre from the left wing Kemplay had a chance, but shot wide. The custodian cleared from another attack, and then play was transferred to the other end, where Loughborough forced a couple of corners. Nothing resulted from these, and Luton responded with some vigour, and for a time had the best of the exchanges. Eventually they were driven back, and several more corners fell to the homesters. From one the ball was nicely placed, and after hovering near goal for a few seconds, it went to the feet of Keech, who promptly put in the net.

* * *

This was twenty minutes from the start. Encouraged by their success, Loughborough began to show up better, and a couple of minutes later Allan put another goal to their credit, heading just under the bar from a centre by Pegg, whilst soon afterwards he added a third from a middle by Parker. The Luton left wing made several efforts to change the aspect of affairs, but when the interval arrived, Loughborough still found themselves in the extremely unusual position of leading by three goals to nil.

* * *

Play had not long been in progress in the second half before Loughborough scored a fourth goal from a free kick, Pike dropping the ball among a crowd of players, and Keech doing the trick. Loughborough had one or two more chances, and then Luton began to have a share of the game, the ball at length being carried down on the right and Brock heading a goal. Luton continued the attack for a while, but Loughborough gradually got the upper hand again, and though they could not increase their score, they more than held their own as far as the play was concerned. Thus two years in succession, Luton have furnished points to Loughborough on the latter's ground, and they are about the only Club which has done so.