



SECOND LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WALSALL.

A FINE VICTORY BY 4-0.

Walsall evidently like a hiding as little as some other clubs, and their misfortune of Saturday, at Luton, put up their backs a bit. It was universally admitted that Luton was far the better team, and that they thoroughly deserved their victory. None expected that the Strawplaiters would win by 4 goals to nil, although it was not expected they would leave the ground pointless. The win has placed them in a fairly respectable position in the League table.

It was estimated that there were about 2,500 people present. Particular interest centred in the redoubtable Cæsar Jenkyns, Walsall's captain, and centre-half, an individual of very formidable proportions, and before whom all his opponents went down. Fairgreaves, however, caused Cæsar no little anxiety, and he experienced the toughness of the nut he was trying to crack right from the kick-off. Williams not having recovered from the injury he sustained when playing against Watford, Ralley was substituted at left half-back, and he justified his selection. Ralley played in a truly business-like yet artistic style, and the committee were well advised in including him in the team.

During some stages of the game play was marred by palpable fouling; this, with free-kicks for infringement of the offside rule, caused the referee's whistle to shrill merrily. The player who deliberately trips and hacks his opponents, and slangs the referee should, if discovered, be suspended sine die, which, by the way, was once interpreted, "till he dies."

Walsall kicked off at 3.15, and for the first fifteen minutes there was every reason for anticipating a close struggle, although Fairgreaves was having a rough time of it with the burly Cæsar. After numerous fouls, Luton had the better of the argument, but the play on neither side could be gone into ecstasies over. One of the features of the game was the sterling defence of Dow. He continually pulled up the visiting forwards at critical moments, and fully made up for the shortcomings of McCurdy, who kicked weakly at times.

Daw gave a really fine display in goal, and repulsed shots at times which seemed certain to find the net. The Luton forwards made openings innumerable, but on occasions shot abominably. Once in particular Brock, receiving a pass from Brown, had simply to walk in, and failed miserably. On the other hand, Dean, Walsall's outside right, a few minutes later, retaliated with a stinging shot delivered at a difficult angle and yards from goal, which struck the posts. After some 25 minutes' play, Eckford centred with excellent judgment to Brock, who scored amidst much enthusiasm. Luton, 1 goal.

This success acted as a sort of tonic to Luton who took up a strong attack. The forwards on the whole passed the ball very smartly. The way Fairgrieve tricked his man, steadied the ball, and then scored, made the public open their eyes. Stewart, however, appeared stiff and slow in getting on the ball. Luton had certainly the best of the game, and Tennant was kept exceedingly busy. Brock again had an excellent opportunity to score, but missed the ball, this time altogether. However, a corner was forced, and after some exciting play in front of goal, Fairgrieve did the needful by adding another point to the credit of Luton. Walsall, nothing discouraged by these reverses, played capital, and on two or three occasions the home goal trembled in the balance. At half-time, however, the score stood in favour of Luton by 2 goals to nil.

On the re-start Walsall was again in trouble. Not a crumb of comfort were they to receive that afternoon. Luton at once made a combined attack on the enemy's citadel, and they were greatly assisted in the performance thereof by the kindness of a Walsall forward, who for some strange and inexplicable reason sent a hurricane shot into his own goal. The locals cheered enthusiastically and indulged in a very broad grin at the expense of the visitors. Immediately after there was another surprise in store, Brown obliging with another goal, which to the anguish of the Lutonians was disallowed for a foul. There was now an air of depression in the camp of Walsall. The Luton forwards were exceedingly even; although their display was not such as to send the spectators into a state of enthusiasm. Brown and Eckford showed considerable agility, but being on the small side, they were placed at some disadvantage.

Fairgrieve could have again scored had he not fell at the goal-mouth, and a bombardment of Tennant's stronghold followed. Here it was that Cæsar's rotundity of figure was seen to advantage. Indeed Cæsar appeared to have a lively disposition to show his weight, which was fraught with so much peril to his opponents. Play ruled for a time fairly equal. The visiting forwards had the best of intentions, but the execution was faulty, and many attempts at combination were upset by lack of judgment in passing. Some clever play was put in by Eckford and Brown. About ten minutes before time the latter passed to McInnes who found an opening and scored the fourth and what proved to be the last goal of the day. Teams:

Luton: Daw; Dow and McCurdy; Morrison, Stewart, and Ralley; Brown, Brock, Fairgrieve, McInnes and Eckford.

Walsall: Tennant; Bunch and Davis; Holmes, Cæsar Jenkyns, and Lyons; Dean, McAuley, Griffin, Martin, and Dailly.