



ENGLISH CUP.—SEMI-FINAL.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

A NARROW WIN.

The old-time rivalry between Watford and Luton lent a spice of keen interest to the Cup tie on Saturday. One of the largest crowds of the season, numbering about 4,000, assembled on the Bury Park enclosure in the anticipation of seeing some exciting fun. Two long excursion trains from Watford brought large contingents of the visiting club's supporters. It was a beautiful afternoon, and part of the game was played in brilliant sunshine. Watford had their full team, with the exception of Slaughter among the forwards, whose place was taken by Richardson, while Luton had their usual eleven. Soon after 2.30, the start was made as follows:

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

Watford: Baker; Cother and A. Sharp; Beach, Good, and Wood; Varley, Richardson, Hare, McNee and Hill.

The referee was Mr. Nat Whittaker.

Watford won the toss, and made a rush into Luton territory at once, but Beach shot wide. The home forwards, however, soon transferred play, and two unsuccessful attempts were made by Fairgrieve from Brown's centres. A foul against Wood was followed by a corner to Luton. Eckford put the ball across nicely, and Brown scored the first goal after 12 minutes' play. The score was loudly cheered and the local players seemed greatly encouraged, showing really smart form for most of the first half.

Brock headed a flying shot just past the goal, and Baker had a lively five minutes. Fairgrieve shot hard, and Cother, who is called "Ranji" from his dusky complexion, nearly put through his own goal. After Dow had finely checked a run by Hare, Brock scored No. 2 from Eckford's centre, and the home crowd made a great demonstration of delight. Everyone now expected a runaway victory for Luton, but Watford pluckily persevered. Richardson sent in a high shot, which nearly grazed the cross-bar. Eckford and Brock both tried at the other end, and then Morrison was penalised for a foul. Sharp placed the kick well and Hare gently headed the ball past Daw, who let the ball slip through his hands over his shoulder.

This unexpected score, which made the visitors frantic with joy, was succeeded only two minutes later by an equally surprising No 3 for Luton, Fairgrieve scoring with a beautiful high shot from long range, which beat Baker completely. A few more rushes by the Watford forwards were easily stopped and then Brown netted the ball again, when Baker had run out of goal. Mr. Whittaker ruled this off-side, and his decision made the crowd rather satirical. A second doubtful decision against Fairgrieve did not improve matters. Baker saved a splendid shot from McInnes before half-time arrived with the score:—

LUTON 3, WATFORD 1.

The Watford men improved considerably in the second half. However, at first, Luton did some hot attacking. McInnes missed a chance, and then Cother kicked out a fine centre from Brown, while Baker just happened to get in the way of another hot shot. McNee now forced Watford's first corner, but it came to nothing. Baker kicked out another from Brown, and Ralley spoilt an opening by dallying with the ball.

A momentary "scene" took place between Fairgrieve and Good, the latter belying his name and having a foul given against him. Twice in a few minutes, Baker saved wonderfully in a fierce scrimmage at the expense of a corner. From another clearance by the Watford custodian, Charlie Hare made a clever single-handed run down the field, beat both Luton backs, and scored a splendid goal after 25 minutes. It was a very smart performance, and the Watford people cheered themselves hoarse.

The visitors made desperate efforts to win, and Hill made an awful miss, when Watford made certain he had scored. This onslaught having been frustrated, Luton bestirred themselves, and Baker soon had plenty to do. Unhappily, "Tuggy" Beach got his knee twisted, and had to be carried off the field. This left Watford with only 10 men for the last quarter of an hour. Brock created some amusement by vaulting over Baker's back, as he ran out to meet the ball.

From a corner, Luton headed the ball over, and next Baker effected a grand save from McInnes. Watford now made an expiring effort. McNee looked certain to score, but the home defence put behind and from the flag kick Daw saved. At the finish the game was all in Luton's favour, but two more corners availed them nothing. So they had to be content with the narrow victory;—

LUTON 3, WATFORD 2.