



SECOND LEAGUE.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v. LUTON.

A HEAVY DEFEAT.

After several weeks' absence Wednesday were again at home on Saturday, and though Luton are not amongst the best drawing clubs in the division, the fact that so little had been seen of Wednesday of late, coupled with the unusual beauty of the afternoon and the desire to help up the club's quota to the Reservists' Fund, led to a gate of about 12,000 assembling. With regard to the game itself, it was only relieved from absolute insipidity by the brightness of Wednesday's exhibition, for Luton were so weakly represented in defence that they only offered a show of opposition in the field. Wednesday, on the other hand, were at full strength, and their victory of six to none ranks as the biggest of the day in English representative football.

Right from the start Wednesday opened up a siege of Daw's goal that was only at brief intervals relieved through the entire game. Only a few minutes had gone before Spiksley diverted a shot past him, but he was palpably offside, and it was not allowed to count. A legitimate point was not long in coming, however, for Pryce headed through a fine centre from Wright which was led up to by some taking footwork in the open. Five minutes later, notwithstanding Daw's activity, Spiksley took a wide pass out, and, leaving the field easily, put on a second. With little variation the game continued to centre round Daw, and from a free kick Spiksley drove the third home as Crawshaw hampered the backs. Wright soon afterwards found the net with a brilliant long shot from 25 yards' range, after clever work by Millar. Meanwhile, Luton had succeeded in raising one decent effort, which caused Massey to have to save an awkward long shot from the left under the bar, but it did no damage, and Wednesday were 4 up at the interval.

The gap was further widened soon after the game had been resumed, for following upon one or two ineffectual attempts from both flanks, Pryce slipped through and scored with a high oblique shot. Daw was allowed little rest, and during one attack he had to save at least half-a-dozen times in quick succession. A sequence of brilliant runs by Wright and Spiksley, however, led up to a sixth goal from the foot of the latter, after a glorious individual effort, and although Luton once gave Massey a warm handful, they continued to have all the worst of matters, and retired badly beaten. Final:—Wednesday, 6 goals; Luton, 0. Teams:

Wednesday: Massey; Layton and Langley; Ferrier, Crawshaw, and Ruddlesdin; Brash, Pryce, Millar, Wright, and Spiksley.

Luton: Daw; Stewart and Holdstock; Brock, Ralley, and Garrett; Brown, Durrant, Fairgrieve, McInnes and Eckford.

NOTES.

A defeat was absolutely certain with the weakened team Luton sent to Sheffield, as Dow, Morrison, McCurdy and Williams were all absent, and 5 local lads were playing.

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The game was overwhelmingly one-sided and a Sheffield writer says: — "With one or two men hurt, Luton found themselves hard pressed to get a team of any kind together, for times are not so fair with them as they were a couple of seasons ago. And though they did manage to surmount this difficulty, the result was such a hotch-potch of the defensive lines, half-backs playing back and forwards doing duty for half-backs, that the game naturally resolved itself into an opportunity for Wednesday to improve their goal record, a situation which they grasped so effectively as to send up their figures for above anything in either division of the League—an average of exactly 6 to 1. It was easily the cheapest task Wednesday have had so far, for Luton were so feeble behind that their forwards, who occasionally showed pretty advances, never got the slightest support in their attempts to change the current of play. Massey had only two real shots to stop the game through. For the remainder of the time he was an interested spectator of the roasting that Daw was getting at the other end. The latter, notwithstanding that he was beaten half-a-dozen times, kept a distinctly good goal, as often happens in cases where a continued bombardment is going on."

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"Little can be said for Luton, except that they strove pluckily and good-temperedly against big odds. Of the old hands Stewart is no longer the man he was, but McInnes is still clever and resourceful in his footwork. While the other forwards are smart, however, the whole line is too much on the small side to stand any chance against a big defence. The beautiful weather and fine gate were a source of much congratulation, in view of the fact that it was the occasion set apart by the directors for their contribution to the Reservists' Fund. The gate receipts amounted to £171 14s. 6d., 20 per cent of which works out at £34 6s. 10d. A collection taken upon the ground realised £12 1s. 1d., and the players contributed £5 10s., in accordance with their decision last week, so that the amount to be handed over totalled up to the handsome sum of £51 17s. 11d."