

The League. = Division II.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY v. LUTON TOWN.

Played at Sheffield on Saturday. Result:—

Sheffield Wednesday 6 goals.
Luton Town nil.

To those who had expected the victorious Blades would run into double figures against the team which Luton sent to the outlery capital on Saturday, the result came as a pleasant surprise but the pleasure, such as it is, has a melancholy tinge, and, as the man in the street or the boy in the gutter would say, "it ain't much to boast on." Six goals to nothing is a big enough beating, and the only satisfaction we can get out of it is similar to that which I noticed the other day a Norwegian sailor was said to have extracted from a thrashing administered by a British tar.

The Norwegian was beaten unmercifully, but his sense of humour was so tickled by the fact that the Briton had called him "a beggarly Swede," and had given him a drubbing under the impression that he was a Swede, that he forgot all about his aches and pains, and laughed heartily at the victor's expense. In like manner, we can laugh at the thought that the Blades fancied they were licking Luton, when we know perfectly well that they only beat a mere remnant—an unrepresentative lot of men, who perforce were called upon to do duty for the occasion.

As far as the Luton defence was concerned, only one man was playing in his usual position, and that was the goalkeeper. Daw was in his customary place between the sticks, Stewart and Holdstock played back, Brock, Ralley, and Garrett, half-back, and Brown, Durrant, Fairgrieve, McInnes and Eckford, forward. The Wednesday had their full team out, as will be seen from the following: Massey, goal; Layton and Langley, backs; Ferrier, Crawshaw, and Ruddlesden, half-backs; Brash, Pryce, Miller, Wright, and Spikesley, forwards.

As was to be expected, the Wednesday, by far the strongest Club in the Second Division, showed their superiority from the first, and Daw had to make a couple of saves before the game was two minutes old. Indeed, Daw played in capital style all through, and is as much entitled as anyone to the credit of keeping the score below double figures. The game had not been long in progress when Pryce headed a goal, as the result of some smart work by Wright and Spikesley, the latter soon afterwards scored a second, Wright put on a third from a free kick, and before the interval added a fourth. Luton did better in the second half, for after Pryce had registered a fifth goal with a long shot, they kept the Blades at bay until towards the finish, when Spikesley, who was in brilliant form, made a grand single-handed run, and scored the sixth and last goal.

Practically, Eckford and McInnes were the only Luton forwards to cause any trouble to their opponents, and they tried hard again and again to put a different complexion on the game. Fairgrieve also was fairly good, but not good enough to make much headway against Crawshaw. The halves did their best against a smart lot of forwards, and Stewart and Holdstock acquitted themselves very satisfactorily at back.

Leicester Fosse sustained their first defeat on Saturday, being beaten at Lincoln by two goals to nil. In my opinion they have had an extraordinary run of luck, for I can't believe them to be anything like the team that their record makes out. The Arsenal showed further signs of improvement by going to New Brighton and winning by a couple of goals to nothing. The following is the League table up to date:—

					Goals.	
	Pld.	Won.	Drn.	Lost.	For.	Agst. Pts
Sheffield Wednesday ...	11	9	2	0	30	6 20
Small Heath	13	9	2	2	33	17 20
Leicester Fosse.....	12	7	4	1	16	6 18
Bolton Wanderers	11	6	4	1	20	9 16
Burslem Port Vale	13	8	0	5	20	15 16
Newton Heath	12	6	3	3	17	8 15
Grimsby Town	10	5	3	2	21	15 13
Lincoln City	13	5	3	5	12	22 13
Woolwich Arsenal	12	6	0	6	15	14 12
Walsall	12	3	4	5	20	23 10
Middlesbrough	13	3	4	6	17	22 10
New Brighton Tower ...	10	3	3	4	16	13 9
Luton Town	12	2	4	6	16	21 8
Chesterfield	10	3	2	5	20	32 8
Barnsley	11	2	3	6	9	21 7
Burton Swifts	12	2	2	8	13	31 6
Gainsborough Trinity...	12	1	3	8	13	28 5
Loughborough	11	0	4	7	7	20 4