

FOOTBALL.

WEST HAM v. LUTON.

ANOTHER DEFEAT FOR THE "BLUES."

The only alteration that was made to the fixture list by the interruption caused by the death of Queen Victoria was the postponement of the Southern League fixture with Tottenham Hotspur, so that the Luton men were left free on Saturday to fulfil their engagement to play the return fixture with West Ham. It seems that the Cup matches in which the "Spurs" and the Arsenal were engaged had had some effect upon the gate, as only about a thousand persons turned up at the Canning Town enclosure. The Lutonians were, of course, lacking the services of McCurdy, and Holdstock was also an absentee. Lindsay, however, turned out, this being his first appearance for some weeks. It will be remembered, perhaps, that the visit of the West Ham team to Luton on October 20 resulted in a victory for the home eleven by two goals to nil. The ground at Canning Town was in a fairly good condition, but the weather was dull. To avoid confusion the West Ham team wore white shirts and every player engaged in the game wore a complimentary mourning band. The teams were as follows:—

West Ham United: Monteith; King and Craig; Allen, Kelly, and McEachrane; Hunt, Grassam, Corbett, Ratcliffe, and Taylor.

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and Street; Clifford, Cox and Williams; Brown, Blessington, Gray, Tierney and Saxton.

Referee: Mr. Partridge.

Luton lost the toss and the home forwards immediately became prominent, Lindsay and Street early becoming busily engaged. Taylor was particularly conspicuous on the left-wing and this gave the visitors most trouble. Ratcliffe nearly succeeded in scoring with a high shot, which hit the post and rebounded. In a struggle near Ord's charge Kelly, after a corner-kick, became responsible for a capable attempt at scoring, Ord being compelled to go on his knees in order to save. Next, Corbett came through in good style, though only to be stopped by the goalkeeper; but Taylor was more fortunate, for he, receiving in a first-rate position, scored the first point of the game with an excellent shot. After this reverse the visiting forwards showed far better style, and after Gray and Blessington had failed with shots from a distance Brown became responsible for a fast one, which very nearly brought about the desired result. The "blues" were soon driven back, however, and West Ham renewed the attack. It seemed that the slippery surface—for the ground, although it had been cleared of snow, was still somewhat on the soft side—was rather more against the Lutonians than against the homesters. In the subsequent operations Corbett was conspicuous and he fed his wings extremely well. Taylor soon afterwards became prominent and centred well, Corbett rushing in in order to send through. The outcome of a struggle near the uprights was that Lindsay kicked away. The home contingent appealed confidently for a goal, and, though the Luton custodian and the rear-guard protested strongly, the referee decided that the ball had gone into the goal and so allowed the point. The home centre and his two inside men gave considerable trouble to the Luton defenders, who displayed fairly good style all round. No further goals were scored before the interval, and the positions were:—

WEST HAM, 2; LUTON, 0.

After the interval the Luton men had a good deal more of the play, but they could not succeed in rendering themselves very dangerous. The forwards were not in particularly good fettle, their combination failing to make any impression on the stout resistance offered by the opposing defence. Monteith had very little to do, whereas Ord was afforded several opportunities of distinguishing himself. The home outside-left was, at one stage, bowled over by Lindsay, the crowd expressing dissatisfaction in the usual way. Lindsay was, indeed, spoken to by the referee. Despite all the efforts of the Lutonians they were unable to make any impression on the home defence and in the result were beaten with the following scores:—

WEST HAM, 2; LUTON, 0.