

FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. BRISTOL ROVERS.

ANOTHER UNLUCKY DEFEAT.

When the Luton Town and Bristol Rovers teams met in the Western city last November the Rovers secured a somewhat lucky triumph by a goal to nothing. History repeated itself on Saturday on the occasion of the Rovers' visit to Luton, the score, curiously enough, coming out at 1-0 in favour of the visitors. It ought not to be overlooked, in passing, that in the English Cup ties the Rovers defeated the Lutonians at Luton by 2-0. The weather was against thoroughly good football, a blustering wind prevailing and the pitch bearing perceptible traces of the recent heavy downfalls of rain. There was a moderate attendance of spectators.

The sides were composed as follows:

Luton: Ord; Lindsay and White; F. Hawkes, Clifford and Williams; Durrant and Blessington, Barker, Tierney and Brown.

Bristol Rovers: Gray; Kifford and Griffiths; Davies, Robertson and Neilson; Williams and Jones, Boucher, Griffiths and Paul.

Referee: Mr. H. E. Walker (Reading).

Luton lost the toss, which rendered it necessary for them to face the wind. Early in the game the Rovers sent right across the home goal, and then Barker failed to take advantage of a grand chance presented to him from the left-wing. A corner fell to the homesters, and, when Barker had shot over the bar, a similar advantage was enjoyed by Bristol. Some extremely neat passing was witnessed from the Rovers' forwards, and a free kick near the home goal looked dangerous; but the home forwards, for once in a way, show considerable dash, and Brown rushed away and forced a corner. Brown sent over the bar later on from a beautiful pass when he should have scored easily. The first point in the game fell to the Rovers, Williams beating Ord. There was some objection to the goal being allowed, it being considered by many of those present that the player had been off-side, but an appeal to the referee was unavailing. Brown headed in well shortly afterwards, and Blessington with a very fine shot led to a wonderful save by the Rovers' goalkeeper. There was no further scoring before the teams changed ends, and so the interval score was:—

BRISTOL, 1; LUTON, 0.

Early in the second half Luton forced a corner, and followed this up shortly afterwards by another. A lovely centre by Durrant led to Brown sending over when he ought to have scored with ease. Gray was penalised for carrying the ball and then Clifford was so badly injured as a consequence of an accidental fall that he was compelled to be assisted from the ground. He took no further part in the game. The disadvantage to the home players can be easily estimated when it is stated that the mishap occurred only a few minutes after the resumption. The home players, assisted by the wind, had a good deal the best of the game. They played well in mid-field, but failed to introduce the requisite dash when near goal. Several corners fell to them, but these were not improved upon. It was the erratic shooting of the Luton forwards that was responsible for the final score coming out as follows:

BRISTOL, 1; LUTON, 0.