

FOOTBALL.

LUTON DEFEAT READING.

A WELCOME BRACE OF POINTS.

The team that represented Luton on Saturday at Reading was not so strong as could have been wished. Bearing in mind that the Reading men have done splendidly in the Association Cup-ties this season and that it is a toss-up whether they or Tottenham Hotspur shall enter the semi-finals, it is not surprising to know that the visit to the Berkshire town was not looked forward to with very pronounced feelings of confidence by the supporters of the Luton team. In the ordinary way the task of Luton would have been difficult enough, but with prominent players missing from their ranks it was generally considered that the game would produce a victory for the Reading side. There was a crowd of about 1,500 present to witness the game, and the weather was fine. The home team was reported to be in capital trim, Sharp taking Henderson's place at back.

The teams were as follows:—

Luton: Ord; Street and Lindsay; White, Cox and Williams; Durrant and Blessington, Barker, Hawkes and Brown.

Reading: Cotton; J. Sharp and Clinch; Ball, Holt and Mainman; Evans and Pangbourne, Logan, Spence and Barnes.

The early portion of the game produced play which was at once interesting and even, the visiting forwards being conspicuous for first-rate work. Blessington and Hawkes were responsible for especially good efforts. Both goalkeepers were tested in turn and close was the play; but it was not until 20 minutes had elapsed that there was any scoring. Then a corner fell to the visitors and Hawkes managed to lower Cotton's colours with a very fine shot. The Reading players struggled hard to get on terms and they forced some corners without result, their attack in front of goal being far from excellent. There was little to choose between the teams in point of play from this time to the interval, when the visitors led with these scores:—

LUTON, 1; READING, 0.

After the resumption the home contingent tried hard to equalise, but their efforts were listless. The Luton defence, too, was very stubborn, and the homesters found it impossible to penetrate it. The eventual outcome was a surprise victory for the "blues" with these totals:—

LUTON, 1; READING, 0.