

Luton Town Football Club,

KETTERING v. LUTON TOWN.

For the return League engagement, Luton visited Kettering on Saturday. The first match here resulted in a win for Luton by 1-0, while on Christmas Day the teams made a draw in a friendly at Kettering. The "Ketts" have been showing indifferent form lately and the previous week lost by 2-0 at Millwall. Luton made the journey with confidence, and although it was doubtful whether Frail would be able to go yet he decided to turn out. Owing to the inability of Gall to fill the centre forward's position successfully, the Directors decided to call in an old Luton favourite in the person of Fred Allen, who has been figuring in the Reserves of late with great success. Allsopp again turned out after a fortnight's absence. The home team were at full strength, and took the field confident of victory. The weather was capital and about 2,000 spectators were present when the referee, Mr. S. G. Landragin, of London, started with the men as follows:

Kettering: Mearns; Adey and Draper; Eccleston, Martin, and Grant; Crick, Parker, Brown, Banks and Beckton.

Luton: Frail: Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White and Bob Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Allen, Moody and Allsopp.

In the first half Luton looked like winners, for, though playing up the slope, they vigorously tested the Kettering defence. But little Mearns was in fine fettle in the Kettering goal, and though Draper still seems a bit rocky after his illness, Adey played a sterling defensive game. Only one goal did Luton put on before the interval, and that was scored almost before anyone was aware of the fact, a corner-kick of a very unpromising type being smartly netted by Moody when the game was 20 minutes old.

The Luton forwards kept pegging away at goal right up to the interval, but they got nothing more. Truth to tell, they deserved it (says a Kettering writer) for they were a far stronger line than our own, the outside men continually getting in some lovely centres which always spelt danger. Were they a bit faster "on their pins" the Luton forwards would really take some holding in.

Bob Hawkes played a rattling game for Luton throughout, but a goal which he netted shortly after changing over was obviously off-side. It was soon after this that the Ketts got fairly going. Brown and Beckton on the left made a particularly prominent wing, and, with Jack Platt at centre, constituted a trio to command respect. Had the Luton custodian been content with the common or garden species of goal-keeping we shouldn't have scored at all.

But Frail has a penchant for rushing out at the ball, and when it comes off I admit it looks very effective. But on two occasions on Saturday it didn't come off. It was a corner-kick which he first went at like a bull at a rag, and completely missing the ball Kettering had an open goal before them and took advantage of it, Draper giving the leather its parting kick. The Luton goalie nearly put his foot in it again just before the finish, for he rushed out at a shot and missed his mark, and Platt had an open goal before him when he was deliberately pulled off the ball. Kettering appealed vigorously for a penalty, but didn't get it. Result:

Luton 1, Kettering 1.