

Luton Town Football Club.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

A DECISIVE VICTORY.

This return match was played on Saturday at Luton in damp weather, before about 2,000 spectators, including many visitors from Watford. Early in the season Luton gained their only victory on foreign soil at Watford's expense by one goal to nil. The previous week Watford were defeated by Kettering, and there was not much doubt about the result on Saturday. In the Luton team, Davidson, the new centre-forward, made his first appearance at home, and Frail managed to turn out. Watford had full strength, including the old Luton right winger, R. Brown, who has been showing fine form for the West Herts club this season. The Volunteer Band was present, and the referee was Mr. H. E. Walker, of Reading. The teams were:—

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

Watford: Higgins; Allen and Lyon; Dackers, McAvoy, and Matthews; Brown, Eames, Morgan, Murray and Tennant.

Luton won the toss, and Watford started against the wind. After two corners to the home side, Higgins saved grandly from Davidson. Tennant shot across an open goal, and two more corner kicks to Luton were fruitless. However, after 23 minutes' play, Blessington beat Higgins from Allsopp's centre. The home side pressed severely, but Watford defended well. Allen shot over the first corner secured by Watford, and Frail saved from Brown. A fine score by Moody was disallowed for offside. Just before half-time, Blessington registered the second point, the ball going in off Dackers. The interval score was:

Luton 2, Watford 0.

In the first minute of the second half, Durrant increased Luton's lead by a grand shot. Watford tried hard, but found the home defence too much for them. Frail saved a clever attempt from Brown, and during a heavy hail-storm, Bob Hawkes shot behind with an open goal in front of him. Play slowed down for some time, and Watford forced a corner off Wililams. From Brown's place-kick, Morgan headed into the open net, Frail running out and missing the ball. Davidson put the ball through, but offside nullified the score. When everyone thought the game was over, Luton forced another corner, and Durrant placing finely, Moody headed the last goal of the day. Result:

Luton 4 goals, Watford 1.

NOTES.

The game exemplified the old-time rivalry that has existed between the clubs, but the superiority of Luton was more pronounced on this occasion than ever before, and I think that it is the heaviest defeat that Luton have inflicted upon Watford in the League tournament. It was gratifying to be able to record victory once more, and it is to be hoped that Luton will gain all available points in the remaining matches, for their position in the League is a very lowly one.

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The success was fully deserved, for Luton held the upper hand from start to finish. Frail did well, although he was to some extent to blame when Watford scored. However, all's well that ends well. Lindsay played splendidly at back, and baffled the efforts of the visiting forwards to break through. He was well assisted by Harry Williams, who cleared his lines in his best style, when danger threatened.

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All the middle trio worked hard. Bob Hawkes again distinguished himself, and earned the applause of the Watford followers on the stand by his fine display. A feature of the match was the unusual number of times he headed the ball. Fred Hawkes was far too good for his opponents, while White was as indefatigable as ever.

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In the front rank, all eyes were centred on Davidson, but it must be confessed that he did not appear to much advantage, and seemed not to exert himself. He played a very unselfish game and left openings to others, when it would have proved beneficial to his side if he had exercised a little more dash, and taken them himself. Still, he seems to have put life into the other forwards and this is what has been lacking for some time. Blessington and Durrant played well together, and showed us some of their old form. Especially noteworthy was the display of the left wing, Moody and Allsopp being very smart and the former's head work being a treat to witness. It is a long while since the Luton forwards have played so well.

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As to Watford, Higgins, though lucky at times, saved his side from a much heavier defeat. Lyon was prominent at back for his clean kicking and fearless tackling. The Watford halves are not so strong as last season, and seem to lack experience and cohesion with their forwards. Dackers was most useful.

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Among the forwards, the one shining light was our old friend, Roland Brown. Although he was not given many openings, he was always dangerous whenever he got away. His speed serves him well and his centres were well-timed and accurate. His partner played fairly, but wandered too much. In the centre, Morgan made big efforts to retrieve his side's downfall, but found the home defence too much for him. On the whole Watford are not so strong as they were last season. The referee was fair, but several of his decisions were much open to doubt.

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