

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

LUTON DEFEAT WATFORD.

A VICTORY OF 4-1.

The return match with Watford took place at Luton on Saturday afternoon before a large company of spectators, who were rewarded by seeing a fine game. The Luton side, it will be remembered, went to Watford earlier in the season and beat the Herts. club by the narrow margin of 1-0, but on this occasion the goals scored were on a more liberal scale, Watford claiming the one point and Luton four. Before Saturday the two clubs were the two last clubs but one on the Southern League table, and a win for either of them was calculated to make a big difference. The following were the teams :—
Watford: H. W. Higgins; F. Lyon and Allan; Dackers, McAvoy, and Matthews; Brown, W. Eames, J. S. Morgan, Murray, and Tennant. *Luton*: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Davidson, Moody, and Allsopp. Referee: Mr. H. E. Walker (Reading).

Lindsay won the toss again, and decided to kick from the farm goal towards the railway. The result of the start was a little eye-opener for Luton for evidently the visitors had come to do or die. Then Luton forced the play to the Watford end, and three chances proved unavailing owing to the poor shooting of the Luton forwards. The whole of the forwards took part in the movement, which was ended by Allsopp lifting the ball right over the bar. In the subsequent play Luton pressed severely, and the goalkeeper had to give a corner, from which Allsopp missed a good chance of scoring by placing over the bar. A weak kick-off from goal nearly let the Watford goal down. Davidson was over anxious, and placed just over the bar.

The Luton forwards again pressed, but Blessington was given off-side. A little later Davidson found the ball at his toe and placed a hard shot in at goal. Higgins was on the alert, but could only just keep the ball out. The home side was now having all the best of the game and pressed continuously. More often than not the visitors were kept in their own half. Higgins made another smart save from Blessington, whilst soon afterwards Moody placed just over the bar. Roland Brown the old Luton player was nicely robbed by Williams. Play was transferred to the other side of the field, and Tennant got in a good shot, which Frail saved.

Watford for a time, had the better of the exchanges and Williams nearly let them in by passing back to Lindsay. Morgan after fine individual play got in a shot at goal, but placed too high. Lindsay who had been defending grandly came to the rescue by clearing from the left wing which continually threatened danger to the Luton defence. It was evident about time that Luton would score, and efforts in this direction were made and resulted in Blessington giving Luton the lead with a good shot. Higgins evidently considered that he had been impeded by one of the Luton players. The referee looked at one of the linesmen and immediately pointed to the centre of the field.

The visitors went away very finely and forced a corner, but nothing came of it. At the other end Davidson got into a good position, but shot over the bar. Each side was visited in turn and Tennant, who had been very persistent, put in a fine shot from a rather long range. Frail saved well, but the referee ruled the Watford player off-side. The Watford custodian was having all he could do to keep the score down and several times he was troubled by the Luton forwards. He conceded a corner, which was well placed, and from which Davidson put wide.

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Luton should have been credited with another goal shortly afterwards, but the point was disallowed on the ground that Higgins had been impeded. Durrant entered almost on the goal-line and Moody placed the ball in the net. Luton still kept up the pressure and Davidson had hard luck in not getting through. Then a grand assault was made on the Watford goal and Blessington, after passing Allan, got into position and scored a second goal. Blessington got hurt in this run and left the field and remained off until half-time when the score read:

LUTON, 2; WATFORD, 0.

Luton, early in the second half, made a grand assault on the Watford goal, and, after some good passing, Durrant came from the wing to the centre, and, neatly tricking Lyon, found himself within range of the goal, and drove hard and straight for the corner of the net. The goalkeeper made an attempt to save, but could not reach the ball. The teams returned to the centre-line as a matter of form, but as soon as the ball was over the line the Luton men pounced on it, and went away with it towards the Watford goal. Allsopp placed just by the goal after making a good run. A foul was given against Matthews. Lindsay took the kick, and Moody was given off-side owing to the tactics of the Watford defenders.

Watford gave a corner, and from the kick Brown got in a good shot, but Frail saved. Luton with a bit of luck should have scored again a little later, as Higgins ran out to clear, but could not do so. Allan came to the rescue before Durrant could get on the ball. Bob Hawkes got possession of the ball, and put in a fine shot, but Allan turned the ball out of its course and conceded a corner. Durrant took the kick and Bob Hawkes shot over the bar. Lyon and Allsopp had a tussle in the corner of the field, but the Watford man proved successful and cleared. Watford were at last rewarded by a goal, Morgan heading through. Frail came out to clear, but could not reach the ball.

There was considerably more life put into the play after this success on the part of the Watford men. "Bob" Hawkes got in a shot which was cleared by Higgins, and the pressure was relieved by Allsopp being given offside. White was in a good position, but placed wide from a free-kick. One of the Watford men fouled "Bob" Hawkes, and from the free kick Davidson put in a shot just under the bar, but Higgins saved. A corner shortly afterwards resulted, and from this Moody headed into goal. Higgins tried to reach the ball as it fell, but failed to do so. This was all the scoring, and the game ended:

LUTON, 4; WATFORD, 1.

Of the visitors Higgins played a good game in goal, notwithstanding the four goals scored against him. The backs were about equal in ability. Matthews was the best of the half-backs, and Morgan of the forwards. "Roland" Brown made several good runs, but was very often pulled up by "Bob" Hawkes. He is spoken of as Watford's best forward, but on Saturday had to give place to Morgan. Frail was safe in the Luton goal, and Lindsay was a host in himself. The half-backs were very useful. Blessington played a greatly improved game. Davidson was closely watched because it was his first appearance, but the heavy ground was against him. He made a satisfactory debut.

At New Brompton on Saturday the Kentish club beat West Ham United by 2-0, and Kettering disposed of Brentford, but by the narrow majority of 2-1. At Reading, the home side beat Northampton by 5-1; Southampton defeated Wellingborough by 4-0, and Queen's Park Rangers accounted for Bristol Rovers by 2-0.