

FOOTBALL NOTES.

[BY "SPECTATOR"]

WEST HAM DEFEAT LUTON.

NEXT SATURDAY'S MATCH.

The Luton side was due at Canning Town to play West Ham on Saturday, and they duly made their appearance there, but found the elements very stormy, with a soddened pitch on which the best of play could not be expected. Fortunately, Luton was at full strength, and West Ham also had a strong team in the field. The following men turned out:—*West Ham United*: Griffiths; Fair and Eccles; Bigden, Yenson, and Blythe; Allan, Farrell, Grassam, Wallace, and Barnes. *Luton*: Frail; Lindsay and Williams; F. Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Durrant, Blessington, Davidson, Moody, and Allsopp.

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Luton won the toss, and West Ham at once pressed forward, a long pass to Allan failing to reach the player. Following this, the game was in midfield for a few minutes, and then Griffiths twice saved long shots from Davidson. Gradually Luton was forced back, and after a throw-in on the right, Blythe nipped in and stayed a possible burst towards the West Ham goal. But Luton were eager, and the task of checking them was hard. Within the next minute a corner fell to the Strawplaiters, and Moody, with the ball at his toe and right under the goal bar, skied the ball, much to the relief of Griffiths. Rain at this time fell heavily, and was driven full in the face of the Hammers. For a while they failed to make headway, and it was clear that they were in difficulties.

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After a while a rush by Allan saw Frail waiting expectantly for the ball, but the act of retaliation came directly after and relieved the situation for Luton, who again took up the running. All things considered, it was a good game. The Hammers laboured gloriously to gain control of the ball on an uncertain surface. Once Davidson had half a chance, but missed by half a yard with a grounder at close quarters. Allan did better than the others in the West Ham attack, and he gave Frail a shot which might easily have rolled home. But it did not. And, sweeping back, Luton gained another corner, which was finally crashed at the side of the net. West Ham halves at this period were doing excellent work. They travelled quickly, and never allowed much rope to an attack, assisted as it was by a powerful wind. A sensational save was made by Griffiths from Allsopp, who contributed a splendid dash up the wing with Bigden at his heels.

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Griffiths had greater difficulty in dealing with a hard drive from Hawkes, which followed soon afterwards. Yenson was next conspicuous. He stopped Allsopp when that player was in dangerous proximity to Griffiths, but in doing so had to concede a corner. Roused by these early rebuffs, the "Hammers" then made headway, and Frail had to run out to save Farrell from breaking right through all opposition. Then Luton returned to the attack, and forced another corner off Fair. This was admirably placed, but Blessington headed over. Davidson, a moment after, tested Griffiths with a low drive. This having been successfully dealt with, West Ham's left wing got under way, and, when well down, sent across to Farrell, who gave Frail a shot to deal with. The ground was now extremely slippery, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the players kept their foothold. The visitors, aided by the wind, had certainly enjoyed the better of the game, and it was, therefore, extremely unfortunate for them when Lindsay and Williams permitted the home forwards to get the better of a heated argument, which culminated in Farrell scoring. Although they made a bold bid in their endeavours to draw level, it was the home side, amidst the greatest enthusiasm among the small band of onlookers, that again scored. This time Grassam very cleverly headed the ball into the net far out of Frail's reach. At half-time the score stood:

WEST HAM, 2; LUTON, 0.

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On crossing over the wind had abated, and the rain ceased, which was a welcome change both to players and onlookers. Luton restarted vigorously, and Moody made a grand dash for Griffiths, who saved superbly. Then Davidson got the ball in tow, but he was baffled by Eccles and Fair, who were superb in defence. West Ham were now playing up to high-water mark. A free-kick to the homesters was taken by Eccles, which Grassam utilised, and thus scored a third point for West Ham. Luton subsequently missed several good chances, while the Hammers were on the improve, and Bigden sent in a grand shot, which completely foiled Frail, making a fourth goal for West Ham. A grand rally followed, in which Grassam, Allan, and Wallace shone conspicuously, but Luton putting on an extra spurt, the leather travelled to the other end of the ground, when Blessington and Davidson did some brilliant work, ably supported by Moody and Allsopp, and a sharp rally took place close to Griffiths, which resulted in Davidson sending in an easy-looking shot, which Griffiths failed to stop, and nothing further being done, West Ham won by the following score:—

WEST HAM, 4; LUTON, 1.

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"Tam," in the *Morning Leader*, says:—"Bob Hawkes is the leading personality in the Luton team. There are, of course, veterans like Frail, the goalkeeper, Lindsay, as back, and Blessington among the forwards. They all wear well, and are always interesting. But Hawkes, the russet-headed, slim, and lithe, has a style all his own. He is a rare stumbling-block to opposing forwards, and he seems to be irresistibly drawn to the ball as the needle is drawn to the magnet. When the game is thick and fast on the other side of the field Hawkes appears to be unconsciously attracted to the centre. Thus very often his wing was left unguarded. At times it seemed as though he were actually playing in the middle of the trio, and not until Allan began to raise a gallop did we see Hawkes drop, as if by magic, into his own place at left-half.

Next Saturday Luton will expect a visit from Southampton. The visitors are at the head of the league table with 44 points for 27 matches played. Luton are on the 13th position with 20 points for 25 matches played. The superiority of Southampton on paper cannot be denied, but several teams which have greatly fancied themselves have come to Luton and got a twisting. Whatever the result Southampton will have to play to win, and should Luton be in the grand form in which the Spurs found them, I should not be surprised if we should win, though Southampton have already, it is said, counted on two points. Given a fine day there should be a good gate.