

Luton Town Football Club.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. WEST HAM UNITED.

LUTON WIN EASILY.

About 1500 spectators witnessed on Saturday Luton's last League engagement for the season. It was fully expected that the home team would take revenge for the heavy defeat sustained at West Ham about a month since. Both teams were well represented, and the visitors had the assistance of those two popular Clapton amateurs Evans and Miecznikowski. In the home team, Durrant was unable to turn out owing to an injury, and his place was taken by Gall.

Despite the erratic form exhibited by West Ham this season, they have accomplished some smart performances, but they lost badly the previous week against Southampton by 6 goals to 1. For this match, however, they took the field with every confidence. The referee was Mr. A. E. Vickers, of London, and the teams were:

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

West Ham: Griffiths; Eccles and Fair; Bigden, McAteer and Blythe; Miecznikowski, Bush, Evans, Wallace and Barnes.

Luton won the toss, and began well. In less than 5 minutes' Allsopp opened Luton's score with a grand shot, and Griffiths, in attempting to save, hurt himself, and had to leave the field. While he was away, Luton again attacked strongly, and after Davidson had hit the bar, Gall netted the second goal from the rebound. On returning, Griffiths played at back in place of Eccles, who went into goal. Blessington shot behind, and White skimmed the bar, while Eccles saved a grand shot from Hawkes. A fine goal by Davidson was nullified for fouling. Two corners to the visitors were futile. Half-time score:

Luton 2 goals, West Ham 0.

On resuming, West Ham were the first to attack, but Evans shot behind, while Luton soon transferred play. With a fine single-handed effort, Davidson ran through and netted No. 2 for Luton. Eccles just saved a beauty from Allsopp and Moody, but Davidson scored again, making the result:

Luton 4 goals West Ham 0.

NOTES.

There was the usual end-of-season tendency to play a dull and lifeless sort of a game, and the match provided few exciting moments. Luton were nearly always taking the upper hand, and the visitors were certainly disappointing. West Ham rarely got beyond the half way line except by long kick and rush tactics, combination being completely at a discount.

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With regard to Luton, Frail in goal was not seriously tested. Lindsay played soundly at back, and repeatedly defeated the efforts of the visiting left wing to break through, while Harry Williams never gave anything away, and his tackling and kicking being of the best.

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At half-back, Bob Hawkes again played finely, and his clever play was the feature of a not over interesting match. White was as indefatigable as ever, although he seemed to be a "wee bit stale." Fred Hawkes was also quite equal to the occasion.

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In the front rank, Davidson did very well in the centre against his old club mates, and his two goals were real gems, especially the first. Moody and Allsopp played neatly together, the latter's runs and centres being a treat to witness, while his opening goal was capital. Blessington was well assisted by Gall, who showed great improvement upon some of his recent games.

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The visitors came much below expectations, and the ease with which Luton romped home winners came as a surprise to all. It was rather unfortunate that Griffiths should have been hurt, yet no one was to blame, and it is to be hoped that his hand will quickly recover from the sprain which he received. His understudy, Eccles, did as well as could be expected under the circumstances, and although he had no chance with the three shots that beat him, yet he did some smart things. Fair had practically all the back work to do, and did it with credit.

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Of the half-backs, McAteer was easily the pick of a very moderate line. Blythe spoilt his display by some shady tactics, which came under the referee's notice.

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Evans was not a success at centre-forward, doubtless owing to the attentions of White. Buch and Miecznikowski were mere passengers on the right wing, while the left wing made some dangerous incursions into Luton territory. West Ham do not appear to be anything like so formidable as last season.

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