

FOOTBALL

[BY "SPECTATOR".]

SATURDAY'S MATCH.

THE SAINTS DEFEATED.

"WELL PLAYED, LUTON."

A great gate of 7000 spectators assembled at the Dunstable-road enclosure to watch the contest between Luton and Southampton on Saturday afternoon. The ground was as hard as wood in consequence of the frosts during the past few days.

The following were the teams:—

SOUTHAMPTON.

Clawley.

Robertson, Molyneux,

Meston, Bowman, Lee,

Smoker, Spence, Harrison, Fraser, J. Turner,

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Turner, Storey, McKee, Eaton, Durrant,

E. Hawkes, White, F. Hawkes,

McEwen, Bennett,

Thompson,

LUTON.

There was the usual shooting at goal to lead off with, the Luton side practising at the Bury Farm end, with the visitors at the railway end. Mac won the toss and decided to kick from the railway end so that the team changed over.

Turner got away from a grand pass by Storey, but he was at once given off-side. Play ruled on the terrace side of the field. Every bit of play was cheered, and excitement evidently was increasing.

F. Hawkes gave Durrant a nice pass, but the ball went behind. Harrison went down very heavily by falling over Bennett. The referee declined to concede a corner at Luton's request, but gave a goal-kick instead.

Durrant forced Molyneux to kick out, and then a corner followed for Luton. Durrant took the kick, but the ball was eventually put over by White, much to the relief of the Southampton spectators, of whom there were a goodly number present.

Joe Turner got off-side, and thus ended a good good attack by Southampton. Robertson had to kick out from a centre by Turner, but play was waged in the Southampton half of the field.

Then Southampton forced the pace, but Turner and McKee ran down, and the goalkeeper had to save. This was the third good shot he had had to stop, whereas Luton's goalkeeper had not been called upon. White shot wide.

Durrant made a pretty run and forced a corner, but this he placed behind the goal.

A grand assault was made on the Southampton goal, and after the ball had bobbed from one head to another, Turner eventually headed over the bar. The home team really deserved better luck. The shouting was just immense. Harrison got in a shot, but Thompson saved very easily.

After this Luton broke away, and a throw-in on the stand side followed and the ball eventually was sent behind.

Exciting play followed on the Southampton side of the field, and Clawley had to punch out a shot from a header by Turner. "Fairly penning them in but cannot score," was the observation of a spectator. And it was a true one!

A foul relieved the pressure and then Durrant was fouled by a Soton man. Bennett took the kick but the ball eventually went outside. The visitors forced matters again. The ball was taken up repeatedly but only to go wide.

The Luton lads were playing a rare good game, especially Bob Hawkes.

F. Hawkes was twice penalised, and then Molyneux charged McKee in the back. F. Hawkes took the kick and placed the ball just over the bar.

The home side continued to have the better of the game, and once more the ball went just by the posts. From a grand piece of play Turner shot just wide.

Luton got down once more, and the right wing placed wide. Eaton gave away a free kick, but this was cleared, and then Durrant shot into Clawley's hands, and then later he forced the backs to kick out.

HALF-TIME:—

LUTON ... 0

SOUTHAMPTON ... 0

Upon Luton taking the field again, Storey played outside left and Turner went inside. Southampton at once went away and Mac had to give a corner. This was relieved eventually by the ball going behind. Southampton came again and the ball again went wide.

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Eaton got hurt and had to retire to the side of the field. Durrant made a run down the field, but the ball went behind. Southampton ran the ball to the other end.

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Luton with 10 men had about half of the play still and Durrant was repeatedly prominent with his runs on the right. Turner on the left ran down but could not get by the back so that his centre went behind.

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The visitors' forwards brought the ball down again. Eaton returned at this point, and was loudly cheered. Robertson badly kicked Turner, and was cautioned by the referee.

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The game became very fast, and the ball travelled to the other end. Luton made a very hard attack on the Southampton goal. A corner was forced, but the sphere eventually went over the bar from White's foot.

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Will the goal ever come? The Luton men were having again the better of the play, but could not get the ball through. Another corner was forced, but was resultless.

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Southampton were forced to kick the ball out whenever Luton pressed. Mac charged Harrison in the back, but the kick for the foul was cleared, and then the Luton left raced away, and McKee hit one of the backs with the ball, which rebounded and eventually went wide. The Southampton goal had a very narrow escape from another hot attack by Luton who thoroughly deserved a goal. The defence of Southampton had a rare amount of work to keep their opponents out.

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Bennett was playing a magnificent game on the right and from a kick across the field he secured the ball and placed it down the field. Durrant put across a grand centre, but none of the forwards could get near it. Eaton then shot by the post.

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The goal came at last, and the crowd gave vent to pent-up cheers. A penalty was awarded Luton.

and R. Hawkes took the kick. The shot was certain, for Clawley never had a chance.

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The Southampton forwards passed along the left wing and Bennett headed out. Storey and Molyneux came into collision, and then Harrison jumped on Bennett. The referee awarded a foul for the latter.

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A corner was conceded by Luton, but was placed behind.

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Pretty play on the grand stand side of the field was witnessed, and Thompson nearly missed the ball, and though a corner resulted, there was no scoring, though the ball only just went wide.

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Again the Luton goal had a narrow escape, but the defence prevailed and Mac eventually cleared. A free kick was given against Luton, but this was placed behind.

FINAL RESULT:—

LUTON	...	...	...	1
SOUTHAMPTON	...	...	...	0

NOTES ON THE GAME.

By "STRAWOPOLIS."

Southampton are a team that even the greatest team in the country must hold in respect. Their past performances in the League, and their doings in the English Cup competition command this respect. They are a fine lot, they play good football, and they hold a record that would do any club in the country credit.

From a spectator's point of view it was an ideal day for football. The air was crisp and keen, but nevertheless there was a gleam of sunshine to brighten up the proceedings. The only one regrettable incident was the fact that the ground was extremely hard and had too much "bone" in it to allow the players to skip about in a manner they would like to. They had to move gingerly for the sake of their own limbs.

I believe I am correct in saying that this is the first time we have had the honour and pleasure of being visited by a couple of the members of the Selection Committee, whom I noticed were sitting close to me on the stand. The question is: Who is likely to catch their eye? The presence of these gentlemen caused all players to be on their best behaviour and try their utmost, for it is the height of every player's ambition to represent his country.

The directors had wisely strewn the centre of the ground with sand, which was very helpful to the players, whilst on turning out it was noticed that all the Southampton players wore knee-caps, a decided advantage in case of falling.

A roaring cheer greeted the appearance of both sides, and another when Mac won the toss. Play at the commencement was not very exciting, for the players seemed very chary about running about. There was a lot of long kicking by the Southampton men, and it took the locals some little time to settle down. When they did warm, they played beautifully, and McEwen was simply great.

Luton played good football, and worked the ball well up towards goal. Clawley had at least half a dozen shots to clear, and once or twice it looked long odds on Luton scoring, but they failed at the critical moment. It was hard lines for Luton, for they were decidedly the better lot. Three or four corners they forced, but all were without good result.

Thompson was practically a spectator, and I only remember him having to handle once in the first half-hour. Fouls were only of occasional occurrence fortunately, and then merely of the technical order.

Off a couple of free-kicks the visitors looked dangerous, but a mighty shout announced the fact that Freddy Hawkes had cleared, and then from a foul at the other end, Bennett skimmed the bar with a terrific shot. Jack Durrant was showing up well, and once Peter Turner shot by only by inches when Clawley looked well beaten.

Just before the interval, after some good work by both sides, the Southampton players got down and looked very dangerous, and everybody was pleased to see it cleared. Nothing more occurred, and the teams crossed over "as you were."

On resuming, Luton decided to reverse the positions of Turner and Storey, the latter going on the outside. Early on, Southampton forced a corner, but nothing came of it.

A temporary cessation was caused by Eaton getting hurt and being compelled to retire. With only ten men, Durrant got through smartly, but his shot was cleared. A dangerous one by the visitors was also cleared.

Southampton were playing better than in the first half, and on one or two occasions were within an ace of getting in too close proximity of Thompson. Whilst Eaton was away, Storey went over to the right wing, leaving Turner on his own on the left. One pretty run by Turner ended by his placing behind, when hard pressed.

A tremendous cheer greeted the reappearance of Eaton after a ten minutes' interval, and then a loud groan was given to Robertson, who had fouled Turner in a disgraceful manner, and received the caution of the referee.

A great shot by Durrant nearly took Clawley unawares, and then a fruitless corner fell to Luton, whilst an appeal for a penalty for Turner being charged over right in the goal mouth was ignored. Next, another corner was forced by Luton without result. Luton were now doing brilliantly.

Again Luton got down grandly, and it was the hardest luck in the world that a shot by McKee did not score instead of coming off an opponent, and again Clawley was lucky at close quarters.

Honestly, Luton on the play deserved to be at least two goals up. They were having all the ill luck imaginable.

Ten minutes from the finish Luton were awarded a penalty for handling, and when Bob Hawkes scored I have never heard such a shout on the ground in my life. There was the moment's suspense, and then the terrific cheer. I wouldn't have cared to have been Bob at that particular moment.

It was most unfortunate that the ground should have been so bad and spoilt the play, otherwise we should have seen a magnificent game. The second half was infinitely more interesting than the first, for both sides did better. Both sides working like Trojans.

Luton had very hard lines several times in not scoring and it was only the hardest of hard lines with sheer bad luck thrown in that kept them at bay.