

FOOTBALL.

TWO MORE S.L. POINTS.

WEST HAM DEFEATED.

On Saturday Luton were at home to West Ham, whom we played earlier in the season—in September to be exact—and brought back a point, in the Southern League. It will be remembered that West Ham formerly utilized the services of our old friend Johnny Dow. When the season started the Hammers were looked upon as having a fairly good team, but experience does not seem to have worked out the earlier anticipations formed of their ability. They have some good men though, and it behoved the Luton players to be on their best behaviour. The home side has not been out-ting a very big dash lately, and they have a lot of lost ground to recover in the League.

The following were the teams.

WEST HAM.

Griffiths

Eccles Oakes

Bigden Allison Blythe

Kirby Lyon Bridgeman Mercer Satterthwaite

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Allsopp, Turner, McKee, R. Hawkes, Eaton

Williams, White, F. Hawkes,

McEwen, Bennett,

Thompson.

LUTON.

Referee, Mr. J. Tillotson, Birmingham.

The Luton side played towards the Bury goal, and West Ham, as soon as they started the ball, went off with a rush, and it was due to a neat piece of play on the part of White that this was stopped. Luton after this twice broke away, but Eccles pulled them up. Once more the Hammers made away on the right, but the ball went behind. The visitors were certainly very energetic, and played with a great amount of dash. Twice Thompson saved and cleared very finely, and he was certainly having an uncomfortable amount of work to do.

The referee opened his eyes to an infringement by West Ham, White being the victim. Fred Hawkes was penalised for a foul, but though the ball went towards the Luton goal Satterthwaite shot high over the bar. Another foul by West Ham was also penalised, and then Bob Hawkes nearly got through, but was bowled over. McKee was fouled very near the penalty area, and Tommy Allsopp shot just wide, the ball travelling at a vicious speed.

The home side had the better of the subsequent play, and they were helped by a stupid foul by Mercer on McEwen, the Hammer pushing Mac in the back.

Eccles cleared with a great kick, when Luton subsequently pressed, and soon play was at the other end, and the visitors were peppering away at Thompson, who saved brilliantly twice, the second time on his knees. Then a foul relieved the pressure. The backs on the West Ham side were playing a brilliant game, and they were only "equalled by the display given by the Luton men. Bennett watched the ball over the line, when a good deal of pressure was being applied on Mac's side of the field.

Once more a foul had to be recorded against the West Ham side, and then owing to the bad position in which the referee and linesman stood in, Luton was robbed of a corner.

Satterthwaite—what a name to be sure—sent in a stinger, which Thompson cleverly saved, and Williams nearly let the visitors in twice.

White gave Griffiths a nasty shot to deal with and a corner resulted, though who touched it last was not easily discernible. Twice Griffiths had to save from long shots, and once more Bob Hawkes shot and the ball cannoned off a West Hammer. Just when Luton did not want it the linesman pulled the Luton forwards up and of course nothing resulted. Then the Luton side relaxed their efforts and West Ham got away to the railway end, but found Thompson at home. Half-time arrived with the score:

LUTON 0

WEST HAM 0

Peter Turner had a grand chance of scoring following a good run by Allsopp, who centred well. Peter shot over the bar. Tommy twice put in shots on his own. Williams then ended a piece of pressure by Luton by placing a grand dropping shot just over the bar. Once the visitors were very lucky to get the ball away. Mac and one of the West Hammers collided and the Luton man beat himself uppermost and the Hammer motionless. He soon recovered and play was resumed.

The visitors were penned in towards the close, and at length the great effort Luton was putting forth was rewarded. Eaton shot brilliantly, and Griffiths stumbled with the ball. Allsopp and McKee were on top of him in an instant, and the ball rebounded in the net.

RESULT:—

LUTON 1

WEST HAM 0

NOTES ON THE GAME.

(By "STRAWOPOLIS.")

With the season drawing to a close and Luton's home matches not so numerous as before Christmas, it was surprising that the gate was so small at the commencement of Saturday's game, for the day was very favourable indeed to football, and it was generally expected a good game would be played.

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Luton have not been doing very well of late, but it was generally expected that the locals would secure a certain two points, if indeed they are to finish up in the first half-dozen on the Southern League table at the end of the season. The only absentees of note were Durrant and Moody, both of whom are still suffering from colds. McKee makes a reappearance, and as he is reported to have played his best game of the season on Thursday, and it was hoped that he would strengthen the front rank, especially as Bob Hawkes is again playing at inside right. Everyone was glad to see Bennett turn out again.

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West Ham have not a record to be altogether proud of, for they are at the bottom but one of the League, and have done very badly all the season. They have only secured seven victories so far.

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Last Saturday they lost at home to the 'Spurs by two goals to none. West Ham expected to be stronger and play Barnes, their outside-right, but he was not well enough. This is the man who played two years ago for Sheffield United and scored the winning goal in the final for the English Cup at Crystal Palace against Derby County, I think it was.