

LUTON V. PORTSMOUTH.

On Saturday Luton paid a visit to Portsmouth for trying conclusions with the famous sea-side team. Unfortunately, Luton could not go at full strength, Lindsay and Bob Hawkes being away. A good substitute was found for the goal-keeper in S. Goodge, who has played some good games for local clubs. Pritchard took Hawkes's place at half-back.

Teams:—

PORTSMOUTH.

Harris

Bowman Young

Digweed Balck McDonald

Salter Cunliffe Lee W. Smith S. Smith

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Lamberton Moody Barnes Eaton Ross

Pritchard White F. Hawkes

McEwen Turner

Goodge

LUTON

Referee: Mr. C. Fallowfield.

Before 5,000 spectators at Fratton Park McEwen lost the toss, and had to face a fairly stiff wind during the first half, but the visitors soon settled down to play capital football, and in the opening few minutes Harris was called upon to clear a very awkward shot from Barnes and White.

Luton continued to press, their halves keeping the home forwards well in check, so that Goodge had nothing serious to negotiate.

A dangerous centre by Steve Smith went behind. Goodge shaped none too well in trying to save from Lee.

Two corners then fell to Luton, but neither could be improved upon, and once again the ball remained in the centre of the field.

Following a centre by Salter, W. Smith looked to have a rare chance of opening the scoring, but his shot cannoned off Turner close in, and the ball went behind for a fruitless corner.

Offside stopped a pretty run by Lamberton and Ross. Turner and McEwen were soon busy repelling clever attacks by the Pompey left wing, who were a constant source of danger.

Eaton showed McDonald a clean pair of heels, but his centre was intercepted by Bowman and a visit to Goodge's end saw Billy Smith drive the leather all along the floor a yard outside the post.

McEwen checked Cunliffe when he attempted to force his way between the backs, and Goodge had no trouble to getting rid of a high dropping centre from Steve Smith.

Eaton broke clear through from a bad blunder by Young, but he dallied too long before shooting, and Digweed dispossessed him.

After twenty-five minutes Luton's defence was caught in a tangle, and Salter finished up a smart dribble with a fast shot that passed through the far corner into the net, Goodge having no chance.

Luton stuck pluckily to their work, and Harris gave a corner in stopping a long shot from Moody.

Right up to the interval Luton had slightly the best of the game.

McEwen headed away a splendid shot from Salter, and the interval arrived with the score:

Luton now had both the sun and wind behind them, but Portsmouth were first to show up, and McEwen gave a corner in checking Steve Smith after Turner had been beaten.

Luton had to defend for all they were worth for fully five minutes, and relief came when Cunliffe headed over the bar.

Lamberton and Moody changed the venue, and Harris fisted away a splendid shot from Ross.

A corner to Luton was nicely placed by Barnes, and Bowman was lucky to kick away another drive from Ross.

The visitors were twice pulled up for offside when in good positions for shooting.

Keeping up a vigorous attack Luton had hard luck on one occasion, a header from Moody striking the cross bar after Harris had only partially saved from Lamberton; eventually Buick kicked away, and play was transferred to the centre.

Hawkes fouled Steve Smith and Lee initiated an attack, which was only stopped by Turner pulling up Cunliffe a few yards from goal.

Luton were quickly back at the other end, and Harris had to give a corner in dealing with a beautiful shot from Eaton.

Immediately afterwards Goodge cleared a grand shot from Cunliffe, and the ball was taken rapidly from one end to the other.

Luton came again, and Ross had very hard luck with a hard, low drive that missed by less than a yard.

Twice in quick succession Turner cleared dangerous centres from Salter, and on another occasion Lee was penalised for lying offside. Following good play by Bulck and Cunliffe, despite strong pressure brought to bear, Goodge's charge was seldom in danger, and there was always a possibility of the scores being equalised whenever Luton forwards approached within shooting range. Harris had all his work cut out to save a stinging drive from Barnes, who was giving Bowman a lot of trouble. There was not a great deal of interest evinced in the game, which now mainly consisted of loose, aimless, kicking, especially by half-backs and backs. A bad blunder by Young let Lamberton away, but he shot wildly over the cross-bar. Cunliffe failed to utilise centre from Steve Smith, and visitors' goal luckily escaped further downfall. Lamberton shot by at long range.

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