

LUTON v. WELLINGBOROUGH

Played at Luton on Saturday. Result:—

Luton	4 goals
Wellingborough	nil.

The teams were as follow:—

Luton—Lindsay; Turner and McEwen; F.

Hawkes, White, and R. Hawkes; Kellett, Eaton, Lamberton, Ross, and Moody.

Wellingborough—Wise; Noble and Draper; Abbott, Bushell, and Martin; Winterhalder, Macdonald, Cookson, Cole, and Croot.

Referee, Mr. C. O. Fallowfield (Streatham).

Although beautiful weather prevailed on Saturday afternoon and Luton were practically sure of a win, the crowd, for a holiday match, was of very moderate dimensions, not more than three thousand spectators turning out. The Luton front rank, it will be seen, underwent considerable alteration, Barnes being an absentee through the injury he sustained at Watford.

Moody took his place, with Ross for a partner, and Eaton went inside-right, the outside position being given to Kellett, a Notts County amateur who is a friend of Sammy's and was paying him a visit. He had played for the Reserves on the previous day against Hitchin, and his display was such as to justify his being asked to fill the vacancy in the first team.

It was taken for granted that Luton would have pretty easy work in bagging the brace of League points, owing to Wellingborough's unhappy record in League matches, but for a time matters presented anything but a rosy appearance. The visitors started with considerable dash, Cookson and Winterhalder being very nippy among the forwards, while the Luton attack found the Wellingborough defence a little stronger than they had bargained for.

Early in the game Kellett showed to advantage, and after Eaton had put in a beautiful overhead kick, Ross shaved the post with a header from one of the outside-right's centres. Soon afterwards Lamberton ought easily to have scored, for he got absolutely clear, but Wise advancing to meet him, the Luton man shot blindly at the custodian, who was able to make an unexpected clearance.

In the subsequent play, the Luton forwards suffered badly from lack of combination, each man seeming to go more or less on his own. On the other hand Cookson made a couple of brilliant efforts for the visitors, and Lindsay had to be pretty smart to keep his charge intact, the second shot bringing him to his knees.

Just when the spectators were coming to the conclusion that Luton would go on mulling their chances to the end, Kellett found an opening, and taking the ball well down to goal, passed just across the mouth, where Eaton was in readiness to receive and had no difficulty in placing it out of Wise's reach.

This seemed to give the homesters a little more confidence, and directly afterwards the Wellingborough custodian was well beaten by Lamberton, who profited by another of Kellett's centres, but the ball struck the upright, and Wise, who was full length on the ground, then managed to scramble it away.

Cookson and Macdonald led another desperate rush to the other end, a rebound enabling them to get clear of the Luton backs, but Lindsay rushed out at just the right moment and got in his kick in the nick of time. The homesters at once returned to the attack, Kellett showing the way and finishing up with another centre which Eaton again converted. Both goals were obtained in exactly the same way and the cool manner in which Kellett did the business elicited approving cheers from the onlookers.

Kellett himself came within an ace of scoring during the next few minutes, heading in twice from a centre by Ross. At the first attempt Wise returned the ball, and at the second the leather struck the upright. Shortly before the interval the Luton goal had a narrow escape, Lindsay missing the ball when trying to punch out from a corner kick, but luckily it passed across the goal and out of danger.

The second half opened in a decidedly promising way for the homesters, who at once acted on the aggressive. After Ross had sent wide from a middle by Kellett, Lamberton made one of his characteristic dashes and let fly the moment he got within range. Wise had no chance, and Luton were three up.

The fourth and last goal came almost immediately, Ross taking a nice forward pass from Bob Hawkes—one of Bob's patents—and scoring with a smart shot. The spectators were so elated that they began to talk of double figures, but the players apparently thought now the game was thoroughly safe, there was no need to unduly exert themselves, and the exchanges that followed were not of a particularly interesting character.

Luton's lowly position in the League is generally attributed to persistent bad luck, but though they won this game by the comfortable margin of four goals, their display, so far as the forwards were concerned, was not much superior to that of Wellingborough. Kellett was as successful as any. He is not a showy player by any means, but is business-like in his methods and as cool as a cucumber near goal.

Moody was not nearly so successful on the other wing, and the others were under rather than above their form. Fred Hawkes was the best of the halves, and the backs and goal-keeper did pretty much all that was required of them. Cookson and Winterhalder played a sterling game for the visitors, Wise was quite as good in goal as Roger Ord could have been, and Draper, the old Kettering man, showed that he can still give a pretty good account of himself.