

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. GRAYS UNITED.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

LUTON ...	...	...	9 GOALS.
GRAYS UNITED	...	...	1 GOAL.

The teams were as follows—

LUTON.

Platt

Blackett

McCurdy

F. Hawkes

White

R. Hawkes

Gallacher Warner McDonald Pickering Latheron

O

J. Axcell Rose Johnson McKiernan Taylor

C. Axcell

Freeman

Mayes

Tranter

Austin

Mearns

GRAYS UNITED.

Referee, Mr. S. A. Spurgeon, London.

* * * *

Luton were without "Sandy" Brown, who received such a gruelling at West Ham, and also Barnes, who occupied a seat on the grand stand. The Grays United, who have been christened "Sons of the rock," on account of the local cement works, had re-arranged their team, and also had the help of one or two of the youngsters of the neighbourhood. Still, the Luton men were always top dog, and the Grays' defence, quite naturally, perhaps, objected to the mauling they always had to undergo. One writer on football says that the public go to see goals scored. Then certainly the thousand spectators had full value for their money, for one was registered, on an average, every nine minutes.

* * * *

The first goal of the match came from a centre by Gallacher, who put across very nicely, and McDonald headed through very nicely. To some there was a question whether the point should not have been ruled off-side, but in my opinion McDonald was behind the ball when it was centred, and, consequently, off-side. Luton continued to have the better of the play, and Mearns made one grand save at the expense of a fruitless corner.

* * * *

After a visit to the Luton end, McDonald was again on the quest for goal, and Pickering placed just over the bar. A free-kick for hands just outside the penalty area was taken by Blackett, who smashed the ball against the upper half of the cross-bar, the sphere going out of the field.

* * * *

Platt was applauded for a very smart save, whilst Mearns made a grand save from a hot shot from McDonald. Pickering followed with a smashing shot, which Mearns failed to stop, and the ball dropped down on the wrong side of the line and the referee decided that the ball had gone through. It was very hard luck on the goalkeeper.

* * * *

The Grays' men adopted quite a novel way of getting over the rule regarding off-side. They left one back and the goalkeeper to defend the goal. Bob Hawkes just gave the ball a shove, and Blackett, taking up the running, surprised the defence by rushing through and scoring.

* * * *

Whatever possessed the United men to adopt such a stupid course of action no one could make out. Warner notched the fourth goal from a centre by Latheron. Mearns had a little bit of luck in another attack, as it was only an accidental rebound off his knee which saved the ball from going through. At half-time the home side led by four goals to none.

* * * *

The second half does not deserve any description, for Luton were all the way the better side. F. Hawkes broke a record by scoring. It is a long time since the right half notched a goal, and the crowd did not forget to give him an extra cheer for the effort. It was a smashing shot, and Mearns had not the slightest chance with it. The fact was, Mearns was very badly covered by the defence all through, and this accounted for the high score against him.

* * * *

Warner, through one of his tortuous runs, made an opening for himself, and he did not forget to let drive when he got within range. Pickering, who was very much at home, added the next point, whilst Warner shot the eighth. After this, Warner and Gallacher changed places, and both gave a good account of themselves. The left wing distinguished itself by running the ball down, and White, who had left his man to look after himself, was well forward to take the pass, and from close in he added the last goal. During the second half Mayes notched the solitary goal for Grays.

* * * *

Everywhere the home side was superior, and the men simply made rings round their opponents. Blackett was in great form, as were all the others, as a matter of fact, and it was to this that the home side owed their overwhelming victory. Latheron, the outside left, is a Middlesbrough lad, and he showed plenty of pluck and pace and should make a useful understudy for Barnes.

* * * *

Mention of the latter recalls to mind a request which has been made that a contradiction should be entered against an absurd rumour which is going round the town. This is to the effect that Barnes is suffering from consumption, and has gone away, etc., but this is a gross calumny, as all well-wishers of the club will be glad to hear. Barnes has been unwell, it is true: but, happily, it is not so bad as the general talk in the town would lead one to believe. It is bad enough to be ill, but doubly worse to have all these stupid and untrue things said about one of Luton's best forwards. Perhaps this contradiction will silence Rumour's lying tongue.