

LUTON v. NORTHAMPTON.

There must have been well on to 10,000 present on Boxing Day, when Luton faced their old opponents—Northampton.

Perkins won the toss for Northampton, and Luton kicked towards the east goal. The homesters were the first to press, and after a neat piece of play, "Smiler" shot over from the throw in. A foul against Northampton was relieved by the right wing, but McCurdy was safe.

Northampton's first success, an offside goal and a foul against Blackett, gave the visitors the advantage, which was assisted by a corner conceded by Platt. Another flag kick quickly followed, which was well placed, but cleared by one of the visitors kicking out. The Luton left wing made a dash down the field, and Ashton had to send out. From the throw-in, Brown shot and Perkins had to hand out. The visitors' right wing got away, but McCurdy again easily cleared.

It was now Luton's turn to attack, and the right wing forced a corner which came to nothing. Offside enabled Luton to maintain the aggressive, but it was only temporarily, and Northampton desperately returned to attack. Eventually "Smiler" got away, but Brown ignominiously failed by shooting well over.

Luton obtained a free kick, but F. Hawkes sent over. Returning to the attack Luton pressed, and the left back sent to Perkins, who failed to get away, and things looked dangerous for the visitors, but one of the halves getting back cleared.

Perkins' citadel was being pressed from a corner. The ball was cleared, but when the centre-forward was getting well away he was badly fouled by Blackett. This probably saved Luton from a goal being scored against them.

Both goals were visited in turn and play was fairly even, the visitors having perhaps the better of it, but when the whistle blew for half time there was no score.

Returning to the fray Barnes got away, and the right back gave a corner, which was easily cleared. Luton still pressed, and Bob was fouled a few yards from the penalty line. This gave Bob a good opening, but the Luton captain shot wide. Things were being made hot for Perkins, who had to throw out twice, but luckily Northampton kept their flag flying. Still Luton kept up the pressure and Bob shot very close. Play was fast and even. Towards the close a corner fell to Luton, from which Blackett luckily scored.

Result: Luton 1, Northampton 0.