

LUTON v. NORTHAMPTON.

Played at Luton on Boxing Day. Result:—

Luton	1 goal.
Northampton	nil.

Teams:—

Luton—Platt; Blackett and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, White, and Gallacher; Latheron, Macdonald, Brown, R. Hawkes, and Barnes.

Northampton—Perkins; Dreman and Martin; Neal, Chadwick, and Tirrell; Frost, Platt, Brawn, Gooing, and Dilks.

The crowd at the "third" holiday match seemed to be greater even than that on Christmas Day, and ropes had to be placed across the entrance to the grand stand to prevent too many people from getting in. The weather was none too bright, and at the start it seemed doubtful as to whether it would not become too foggy for the game to be played out, but fortunately the light lasted very well, and as it happened, the most exciting incidents of the game took place towards the end.

Told briefly, the story of the play is that Luton were rather the better team in the first half, and their superiority was much more apparent in the second moiety, but the defence of the visitors was very good, and it seemed as though the result would be a draw about a quarter of an hour from time. Bob Hawkes, who had got kicked on the lip early in the game, was charged rather heavily about this time, and after limping about for a few minutes, went off. As it happened, this proved to be about the best thing he could have done.

As everybody in Luton who is at all interested in football knows, Bob is a good player, and moreover he is captain of the Luton team. His absence from the field of play caused Blackett to go to the front just before Luton forced a corner, and he was well up when Barnes took the flag kick. The ball went straight to the right back, who let fly. Perkins put his arm up to get at the ball, but it was going at a great rate and crashed into the back of the net.

Then there was a scene of great enthusiasm. The goal which the people had expected for the last half-an-hour or more had come, and it had been scored by a full back! The cheering lasted several minutes, and it caused the supporters of the Luton team to go home just the reverse of down-hearted. Not only did Blackett score a goal, but he stopped one of the Northampton players from getting a clear run earlier in the game. It happened just before half-time, and although it was near the half-way line, Brawn would have had a good chance of scoring if he had got down the field. Blackett tripped him, and the consequent free kick was easily cleared.

It was a great pity that Bob was injured, for he has rendered splendid service at inside-left during the holidays, and there was any amount of powder behind some of his shots on Tuesday. His partner, Barnes, came very near to scoring early in the game, for both he and Perkins rolled over near the post, and the outside-left hooked the ball over the bar. Soon afterwards Brown sent over from a splendid centre by Latheron, and later on the ball went across the goal and into touch while Perkins was away from his charge.

But although there were some exciting incidents in the first 45 minutes, there were many more after the interval, and it was a wonder that Luton did not score before they did. Let it not be forgotten, however, that Northampton have some good forwards, as is shown by the fact that they have Brawn and Gooing, and they now and again acted on the aggressive. Frost, their outside-right, especially doing good work. Just after the resumption Perkins had his work cut out to save a sanger from Bob Hawkes, and a minute or two afterwards the Luton captain sent just wide, taking a flying kick at the ball, which was passed back by Brown.

The game was stopped for a minute or two on account of a slight injury to Dreman, and following a centre by Frost, White almost put through the home goal. After Luton had pressed very strongly at the other end, Northampton came again, and the ball touched Gallacher's arm inside the penalty area. The visitors appealed for a penalty, but the referee took the view that it was an accident, and so nothing came of an incident that might have altered in a very material degree the result of the game.

The incidents which have already been referred to followed, and the last happening of note was a shot by Barnes which went just wide. As has already been indicated, Luton deserved their victory, but Northampton gave a very good show. Our old friend Perkins defended his charge in splendid style, and the backs were good, but the best part of the team were the half-backs, of whom Chadwick, the centre, was the pick. The other two were very reliable.

Latheron, although playing at outside-right instead of left, pleased the spectators, for though he is rather on the light side he is a trier all the way. Gallacher was not quite so good as on the previous day, but he did some smart things at times, and helped the forwards to put in more spirited attacks than was the case at the opposite end. All the other players were in their usual form. At the end of this match Luton had won all their holiday matches, scoring 6 goals and obtaining 6

points, and the scores in the consecutive matches had been 3—0, 2—0, and 1—0—rather curious results, coming in the order they did.

The gate at Monday's match at Luton realised £214, and on Tuesday upwards of £220 was taken. In each case there was a pooling arrangement, in pursuance of which Luton will share the gates at Watford and Northampton at Easter. About 9,000 people patronised the Luton ground for these holiday matches, and the amounts taken constitute a record for a sixpenny gate in Luton.

The following is the League table up to date:—

					Goals.		
					For.	Agst	Pts
	Plyd.	Wn.	Da.	Lt.			
Fulham	17	10	6	1	28	8	26
Southampton	17	9	5	3	24	13	23
Tottenham H.....	16	10	2	4	27	11	22
Luton	17	9	4	4	35	17	22
Bristol Rovers ...	17	9	2	6	34	23	20
Plymouth Argyle	17	8	4	5	22	14	20
Norwich City ...	16	7	4	5	22	16	18
Brentford	16	7	4	5	16	16	18
Portsmouth	17	6	6	5	28	19	18
Millwall	17	6	5	6	22	21	17
Reading	16	5	4	7	18	22	14
Queen's Park R.	17	6	2	9	29	26	14
West Ham United	17	7	0	10	17	19	14
Swindon	16	4	4	9	14	22	12
Northampton	16	5	1	10	12	35	11
New Brompton ...	17	3	5	9	11	39	11
Watford	17	3	4	10	17	30	10
Brighton and Hove	17	4	2	11	12	28	10

Luton Town v. Leyton and Bassett v. the World for supplying a good Overcoat or Mackintosh to watch the match in.—Note address: 28, Wellington-street.—[ADVT.]