

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

Played at Luton on Tuesday afternoon. Result : No goals. The following were the teams :—Luton : Platt ; Blackett and McCurdy ; H. Parsons, White and Gallacher ; Warner, McDonald, Brown, Pickering and Barnes. Watford : Higgins ; Aston and Brooks ; Main, McCartney and Fyfe ; Eaton, Turner, Eames, Reid and Kelly. Referee, Mr. S. R. Carr (London).

After having played three matches in four days it was hardly to be expected that the teams would display much vim, and it was pretty obvious that the players were suffering from staleness. There was a stiffness and awkwardness about their movement that showed they were sick of football for a little while. The game was consequently rather tame for the 2,500 spectators who congregated to watch the match.

It was soon palpable that Watford were very keen on remaining at the head of the United League table, and in the first quarter of an hour Platt had more work to do than Higgins. Read sent one stinger skimming by the post, and a foot the other way would have placed the ball in the net out of Platt's reach. Peter seemed to take perfect delight in chasing the ball round about his goal, and whether the shots came high or low they were all the same to the goalkeeper, and he cleared them all.

Credit was not alone due to Platt, for Higgins was very great between the "sticks" for the visitors. One shot in particular from Pickering gave the goalkeeper a rare teaser, and Higgins had to be on the alert to pounce on the ball. One shot which Platt saved with his left hand brought him rounds of cheers. In fact, the only two men who did not appear to suffer from fatigue were the goalkeepers. Brown shot high over the bar whilst Eames just shaved the post with a good attempt.

Watford were a long time in making up their minds to return at half-time. Play proceeded at a slow pace for some half hour when Pickering was fouled in the penalty area, and the referee awarded a penalty kick. Brown took the kick, but only succeeded in transferring some of the varnish from the cross-bar to the ball. After this Higgins was very lucky to clear the ball after leaving his goal, and owing partly to the downfall of rain the end of the game with a division of points was heartily welcomed by the spectators. The Red Cross Band, it should be added, played before the commencement of the match and also at the interval.