

THE UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON TOWN v. WATFORD.

EASY WIN FOR LUTON.

The United League fixture between the old rivals Luton and Watford on the former's ground on Monday evening drew only about 1,500 spectators. The result was an easy victory for the Town by 2—0.

Teams:—

Luton: Platt; Jackson and Hogg; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Gallacher; Schofield, Warner, McDonald, Gittins, and Barnes.

Watford: Biggar; Aston and Brookes; Main, Hitch and Richardson; Soar, Turner, Foster, Grimes and Law.

Referee, Mr. P. Harrower, London.

Although playing only a scratch team against Watford's strong eleven, Luton never left the ultimate result in doubt. Without ever extending themselves they were always a couple of goals better than their opponents and the result very fairly mirrors the actual play. A great difficulty in Luton is to induce either player or spectators to take United League games seriously, but the fact that Watford were on their mettle was clearly shown time after time. Their forwards profited chiefly by breakaways, snapping up every opportunity which offered itself but in the majority of cases found Jackson and Hogg, particularly the former, as solid as a rock. Jones, too, in the centre-half position, worked very hard, and was evidently playing for his permanent position in the first team, which, after White's splendid display at Fulham on the previous Saturday, he seems likely to lose.

Watford kicked off, but could make no impression upon the solid Luton rear ranks. The homesters immediately replied and McDonald, who was certainly not an improvement upon "Sandy" Brown in the home centre-forward position, was presented with an opening which he spoilt by shooting softly on to Biggar. Platt had to give away a corner to Law and for a minute this looked hazardous. The ball hovered dangerously near the Luton goal before it could be got away. Fifteen minutes from the start the Town drew first blood with a capital shot by Warner. Roused by the reverse, Turner and Foster found that Platt was all too safe for them, and at the other end McDonald should have scored had he aimed at the goal instead of the goalie. Later, Watford went very close to equalising. While Platt had momentarily left his charge Foster made the cross-bar shiver with a neat header. Catching the ball on its rebound, Turner returned with a hot drive, but the custodian had dropped back and safely cleared. At the interval Luton still led by 1—0.

The second half was largely a repetition of the first. The Town easily had the better of the play but the West Herts team often made impressions by their sparkling bursts away to the other end. In the first few minutes Law caught Platt napping with a long shot. The goalie let the ball slip through his fingers, but had, fortunately for himself so reduced the pace of the shot that he was able to recover himself and clear before the ball reached the line. For a few minutes Watford remained in the home half and Richardson put in a shot which would have easily beaten a less capable custodian. Quickly changing the venue of play, Luton became aggressively dangerous and Warner was given as easy an opening as he could wish for them but very foolishly placed a soft shot well within Biggar's reach. Fred Hawkes, who was doing his best to dissipate the old idea that he cannot shoot, however well he can tackle, put just inside the post with a fine, long drive, but the referee caused much disgust amongst the members of the crowd, apparently on the ground that Warner, who was standing close in at the time had impeded the custodian. Biggar fisted out a hot one from Warner and as cleverly saved another from McDonald. Fifteen minutes from the finish Luton completed their score with a capital shot from McDonald who received from Warner when in an easy position. A particularly striking individual run by Soar looked like reducing the homesters' lead but Platt saved the finishing shot in cool style and carried the ball out through the ranks of the opposing forwards, who immediately made a dash at him. In the last few minutes, the light began to fail, and the game ended in twilight with a win for Luton by 2—0.

Watford showed themselves to be a well-balanced team with a useful set of forwards whose abilities in the direction of shooting should serve them many a good turn against the Southern League elevens. The defence is safe, and the halves are capable. Of the forwards, Foster appears to be a very useful man in the centre position and Grimes is a youngster of whom more will be heard in future. Law will stand improvement, but Turner and Soar are a very reliable wing.