

UNITED LEAGUE.

WATFORD v. LUTON.

Played at Watford on Wednesday. Score:—

Luton	1 goal.
Watford	nil.

Teams:—

Watford—Diggar; Orr and Brooks; Main, Fyfe, and Richardson; Soar, Turner, Foster, Niblo, and Law.

Luton—Platt; Hogg and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones, and Gallacher; Schofield, Warner, Brown, Pickering, and Barnes.

Referee, Mr. Pat Harrower.

Watford were without Aston and Hitch, whilst Luton had Bob Hawkes, Jackson, and White away. The game opened at a good pace, and early on both goalkeepers were called upon, Platt punching away a fine corner in smart style. Watford had the best of the opening exchanges, which were rather loose, the ball being slippery, and therefore hard to hold. After Platt had nearly let it slip through, Luton went away, and a well-placed centre by Schofield was reached by Warner, who, however, headed over. At the other end, Platt saved twice in quick succession from Soar and Fyfe, and next minute Barnes was nearly through ere he was felled down by Orr. When Niblo once got going, Hawkes neatly dispossessed him, and Platt shortly saved grandly. Watford had had the best of it so far, but when Luton got down they were dangerous, and both Pickering and Warner narrowly missed the mark.

The slippery condition of the ball had a considerable effect on the game, and several nice runs were spoiled owing to this. With Watford attacking strongly, Law banged the ball hard across the goal, and Soar returning, Platt saved finely. The ball went out to Law, who got plenty of powder behind his shot, which cannoned on to Foster and out of danger. Following a rally by Luton, when Warner shot wide, Turner had the ball in Platt's net, but the referee ruled that it had crossed the line ere the Watford forward took his shot.

The Luton attack so far had made but little headway, but the defence was serving them grandly. Soar's centres were causing considerable trouble, but McCurdy and Hogg volleyed splendidly. Hogg once checked Foster very smartly when a slip would have meant a goal. Fred Hawkes also nipped one dangerous centre in the bud. When Luton attacked, Brown was going strong, and Brooks handled, Schofield missing by inches from the resultant kick.

Both Brown and Pickering were ruled successively offside when in good positions, and at the other end Law was the recipient of a brilliant pass from Niblo, but shot on to the net. Shortly afterwards, a fine effort by Niblo was brilliantly saved by Platt, and a combined dash by the Watford forwards just after should have produced a goal, but although Foster got clear through he shot wide. Soar and Turner combined splendidly, but although beating Gallacher more often than not, McCurdy was ever a thorn in their path.

Luton pressed as the result of two splendid volleys by Hogg, but offside on Schofield's part brought about relief. After 55 minutes, Pickering got away well, and making an opening for Brown, the latter beat Diggar from 15 yards' range with a ground shot. It was not a hard shot, but it was beautifully placed. Watford retaliated vigorously, and Platt twice saved grandly, his clearance from a high shot from Soar being particularly smart.

The game improved as it went on, likewise the Luton forwards, who had so far been at fault. Luton were leading by a goal when half-time came. In the second half, Watford had the better of the play, but were weak in front of goal, and Luton maintained their lead throughout. Both goals had narrow escapes, for Brown missed a grand chance for Luton, and a shot from Foster struck the upright. McCurdy was in very fine form, and Hogg also played a good game.