

UNITED LEAGUE.

LUTON v. NORWICH.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Luton	5 goals.
Norwich	1 goal.

Teams:—

Luton—Platt; Watkins and McCurdy; F. Hawkes, White, and Gallacher; Latheron, Pickering, Brown, Gittins, and Barnes.

Norwich—Thompson; Archer and McEwen; Livingstone, Bushell, and Bemmett; Lamberton, Wood, Ronaldson, King, and Chalmers.

Referee, Mr. J. H. Jamieson.

Despite the fine weather, this match attracted the smallest Monday gate of the season. The game was worthy of a much larger crowd, for although Luton won in such decisive fashion, there was not so much difference between the teams as the score seems to show, and Norwich were decidedly unfortunate, on the run of the play, in not scoring one or two more goals than they actually did.

What makes the success of Luton all the more remarkable is the fact that they were not represented by what is looked upon as their full team, while the right wing forwards of Monday usually play on the left. Norwich were at full strength with the exception of Ross, his place being filled by King, a Norwich lad, who proved to be not the least effective member of the visitors' vanguard.

Within five minutes of the start Gittins opened the scoring with a splendid oblique shot. He was some yards out, and it seemed probable that he would pass the ball, but he eluded his man and shot into the far side of the goal. Thompson touched the sphere but could not hold it, and so the inside-left scored the best goal seen on the Luton ground for some time.

This early success was a great surprise, but within ten minutes it was followed by another, Pickering converting a free kick taken by McCurdy. This was all the scoring in the first half, but Norwich came very near to doing the trick on one occasion. Platt was out of the way of a cross shot, but McCurdy, who was standing on the goal-line some yards away, had the good fortune to clear after two attempts.

A rather unusual incident happened shortly before the interval. Lamberton slipped while in the act of shooting, and the fall had the effect of loosening one of his teeth. A minute or two later he came off the playing pitch and beckoned the trainer to him. That worthy got a good grip of the offending tooth with his finger and thumb and promptly pulled the tooth out. It is not often that a trainer acts as dentist as well.

Someone jumped on Platt's bad toe in the closing stages of the first half, but he was able to continue to play. From the way Norwich shaped after the cross-over, it seemed that he was in for a lively time, Wood, the inside-right, especially being prominent. At length this player netted as the result of a run down by two or three of the forwards, but was given offside—a very questionable decision, although Ronaldson certainly was offside a few moments before.

The third goal for Luton was scored by Pickering, who was at close quarters when he accepted a centre by Latheron and beat Thompson with a very fine shot. This point was scored while Norwich were playing ten men, Archer having come off second-best in a collision with Gallacher. The right back was, however, able to resume after his knee had been put right.

Barnes scored Luton's fourth goal about 25 minutes after the resumption, and it was a fitting culmination to a splendid effort. The outside-left ran towards goal with the ball, and did not part with it until he had enticed Thompson to leave his charge. Shortly afterwards Gittins put in a good shot which was saved, and Brown was unfortunate in sending it just over.

* * *

But Luton were not done with yet, and the fifth goal was as nicely got as any of its predecessors. Taking advantage of an opening, Pickering eluded both McEwen and the goal-keeper, and finished by sending the ball in the right place. The game was swiftly drawing to a close, and it seemed that there would be no more scoring, but in the last minute Ronaldson saw an opportunity and took it.

* * *

Curiously enough, the score was an exact reversal of that at Millwall on Saturday. It was the biggest score made by Luton this season, and was all the more meritorious because Norwich—who won the other United League fixture with Luton by 4 goals to nil a fortnight ago—are looked upon as being probable champions of the League this season.

* * *

Chief credit for the result went to Pickering, who showed a welcome judgment with his shooting. Gittins worked much harder than he usually does with the Reserves, and it was pleasing to watch the tussles between McEwen and Latheron, who makes his opponents go all the way. Barnes was in fine form, and Gallacher showed that he has not lost anything by his month's rest.

* * *

Norwich played in workmanlike fashion from beginning to end, and it was strange that they did not score more goals in a game that was so productive of opportunities to both sides. The captain played as well as ever, while Bushell was prominent at centre-half. Chalmers, the veteran outside-left, evidently believes in shooting on his own upon occasion, and so, by the way, does Fred Hawkes since his success in the Brentford match.

* * *