

WESTERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. MILLWALL.

Played at Luton on Monday. Result:—

Millwall 3 goals.

Luton 2 goals.

The teams were as follow:—

Luton — Platt; McCurdy and Dimmock; Jones, White, and R. Hawkes; Rigate, F. Hawkes, Hall, Farrant, and Walders.

Millwall—Joyce; Shreeve and McKenzie; Frost, Comrie, and Blythe; Hunter, Milsom, Twigg, Jones, and Johnson.

Referee, Mr. McQue.

Millwall used to be a great attraction at Luton, but although the weather was delightfully fine on Monday, the spectators numbered only a few hundreds. With things going as they are, I'm afraid it would require a very big team indeed to draw a large crowd to a mid-week match at Luton. Both sides were well represented, but it will be noticed that Hogg, Rankin, and Moody were absentees from the home team, while the visitors were without Stevenson and Sutherland.

There was not much excitement about the game to begin with, operations for the most part being confined to midfield. Jones got in a long shot at the Millwall goal, which Joyce cleared, and presently the visitors went to the other end, and the other Jones opened the score with a smart shot. Luton replying, Hall looked a certain scorer but Joyce saved splendidly, and Millwall taking the ball up the field, McCurdy and Dimmock were placed at a disadvantage through getting in each other's way, and Twigg put on a second goal.

This looked very ominous for Luton, and when Dimmock was beaten by Milsom, it seemed any odds on a third goal accruing, but fortunately McCurdy managed to interpose himself between the shooter and the goal, and thus saved the situation. Then Luton made the running, and Farrant somewhat luckily forced a corner. This was placed by Walders, and the ball came out to Hall, who scored a very clever goal. Encouraged by their success, Luton came again, and Joyce gave another corner to a bouncing shot from Walders. Nothing came of this, but shortly afterwards Luton were making a run for goal when Shreeve met the ball and apparently knocked it down with his hand. There were cries of "Penalty," but Fred Hawkes had got possession, the referee allowed the game to proceed, and Fred had little difficulty in steering the ball into the net.

Before the interval, Fred Hawkes had a glorious opportunity of giving his side the lead from a centre by Walders, but possibly the sun was in his eyes, for he altogether missed the ball, which needed only the merest touch to send it in to the net. There was no more score before the interval, and the teams crossed over with honours easy.

When play was resumed, Platt was twice called upon to save, the second being a very good shot, and then Luton taking up the attack, Fred Hawkes again had a grand chance of scoring, but again he failed, Joyce turning the ball round the post. The corner-kick proved a very unfortunate thing for Luton, Johnson getting the ball quite clear in his own half and racing away and planting it in the corner of the goal. From now to the end Luton did the greater part of the aggressive work, but the forwards were sadly at fault near goal, and only once, when Walders got in a fine centre, did they look like equalising, and then Fred Hawkes headed just wide.

As Monday matches go, this was a very good one, but while the best chances fell to Luton, the visitors always gave the impression of being the stronger team. Their reserve backs played a smart game, their halves were always on the go, and their forwards were a well-balanced lot. The Luton front string, on the contrary, was very disappointing, Hall doing little besides scoring the goal, and Farrant being a dead failure. Fred Hawkes was either discouraged by his two misses or he was stale, for he played much below his usual form. Of the other men, Bob Hawkes and Jones were the pick.