

WESTERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. MILLWALL.

It must have been very disappointing to the Luton directors to see such a poor "gate" at Monday's match. A match between such historic rivals as Luton and Millwall ought surely to have drawn a larger crowd than a thousand, when in the Western League both sides play practically full strength. The only alteration in the home team was that Dimmock deputised Hogg, Hall was at centre, while Farrant replaced Moody. The visitors had Joyce in goal, McKenzie and Shreeve at back, Blythe, Ryley, and Frost at half-back, while Hunter, Milsom, Twigg, Jones and Johnson constituted the front line.

It was a fine game all through, there being plenty of dash and life in the play. There was a sensational start, Millwall being a couple of goals up in the first six minutes. The spectators could not realise it; Luton were completely caught napping. The Lions went away from the start, and Jones (not our Jones) drove into the corner of the net, giving Platt no chance. Play had no sooner been resumed than the visitors were once more round the home goal. The Luton backs had not got settled down, and while they were in an apparent muddle, Twigg, the Millwall brilliant centre, had little difficulty in beating Platt.

Though they were two clever goals, the visitors were a little lucky in obtaining such a formidable lead so early in the game. Play continued fast and even, and there was little to choose between the sides. The Millwall forwards were faster on the ball than their opponents, and were always dangerous in front of goal. Hall at centre was very weak against Riley, and Farrant, too, was not able to do much. On the other side Twigg was well watched by White. Johnson, however, gave McCurdy a lot to do, while Hunter had seldom any difficulty in beating Dimmock. Still the home side plodded away, and success came in half-an-hour. Joyce brought off a magnificent save by throwing himself full length in front of goal. "Tiny" had now a little more to do than his vis-a-vis; but the old Millwall custodian proved himself to be as good as ever. Being hard pressed, the visiting defence were compelled to concede a corner. The centre was a fine one, and Hall succeeded in heading into the net. A few minutes later F. Hawkes got away, and McKenzie failing to clear, the Luton man had no difficulty in equalising.

The second half was not to be so prolific of goals as the first. Play ruled a little more even, too, and for the first half-an-hour it was practically anybody's game. "Tiny" was kept busy for a time but he was not to be beaten, and the ball coming out to Johnson, who was well up the field at the time, that player had an easy thing in beating Dimmock, and taking the ball up in fine style, sent well into the net, above Platt's head. However, after this Luton had several chances, but they failed completely to rise to the occasion, and deserved to be beaten, if only for the opportunities they frittered away. The result was that their excellent record in the Western League received a check.

Result: Millwall, 3 goals; Luton 2 goals.