

HOLIDAY FOOTBALL.

LUTON v. WATFORD:

This match, played on the Ivy-road ground on Christmas Day, attracted a crowd of anything between six and seven thousand. Play was of a moderate order, but the game was keenly contested. Luton were playing J. Murphy, a young Scotchman on a visit to the town, but he was not very successful at centre-forward, particularly after the first quarter of an hour. To those who had heard lately that Watford were but a poor lot, the display of the visitors must have come as a surprise

For the first twenty minutes Watford had practically all the play, and penned Luton in so persistently as to be a little uncomfortable for the home spectators. But after the Hertfordshire men had had a good "go in," to find Platt as safe as "the bank," as they say, Luton began to tell on their opponents. In spite of the fact that they were weakly represented, they had from now up to the interval by far the better of the play. Fortunately, the visitors' custodian was also in good form. About 10 minutes to half-time, the locals obtained their first point. This came from a fine run on the wing by Walders. He finished up by putting in a splendidly judged centre, which Moody turned to account by cleverly heading into the net, giving Biggar no earthly chance.

The Blues had the wind against them in the second moiety, but despite that disadvantage they continued to have more of the game than their opponents. Still the forwards found a hard nut to crack in the Watford defence. Biggar in goal being particularly brilliant. Platt was a spectator for most of the time. True the Watfordians made a chance break-away, and though Watkins especially was practically bottled up now and then, the forwards never looked like getting the ball behind Platt.

However, once more the unexpected happened. During one of their spasmodic rushes Watford got well up. Both Luton backs came to the rescue, and a fair tussle took place about 20 yards from the home goal. During the scrimmage, Badger took a pot shot, and the ball went tamely into the net by Platt. The home goalkeeper appeared dumbfounded, and it was certain that he was taken unawares. This was very hard luck for Luton, though of course it was a veritable plum for the visitors. Play had become so even that Luton, who had all along appeared more than likely to hold the advantage, did not seem to have much chance of again gaining the lead. Such proved to be the case, and Watford went home with a lucky point. Result:—

Luton, one goal; Watford, one goal.

Parsons, who played at centre half in place of White, gave a very fair display indeed. Taken on the whole Watkins did rather better than usual, but he was still as unreliable as ever. As for Platt there did not seem to be any blame attached to him for Badger's goal.