

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

LEAGUE LEADERS OUTCLASSED.

TOWN DREW BUT DESERVED TO WIN.

If football form could be trusted, Luton Town had no hope of victory on Wednesday, in their home Southern League encounter with the brilliant leaders, Queen's Park Rangers. But football form is a treacherous foundation upon which to base any calculations. The result was merely a goalless draw, but had the Rangers received their deserts they would have lost by a two or three goals' margin.

They were always out-classed, and their great goal-scoring line of forwards found the Luton halves and backs almost impassable. The Town forward line showed a vast improvement, owing to the introduction of the two new amateurs W. Porter (London Caledonians) and Arthur E. Jones (captain of Romford), who put new life into the attack, so that the visiting goalie had far more work to do than had Platt.

Jones is a decided capture. He is a stiffly-built player, with a reputation in Essex for scoring two goals a match, and he possesses a very fine knowledge of the game. He needs to become more accustomed to the professional style of play and cannot be described as fast, but he passes with great judgment, can force the game, and shoots with rare accuracy. Given a little more experience with his colleagues in the ranks of the Town, and he will play a big part in helping the club to rise out of the bottom two places on the table.

Porter is a determined, speedy, little winger, who puts every ounce of his energy into his work, and can centre in a fashion that gives the inside men splendid openings.

Although rain fell persistently, about 3,000 spectators put in an appearance, and were rewarded by seeing a very good, exciting game, upon a greasy pitch.

Gittins and Barnes, old Lutonians, appeared in the Rangers' front string, were warmly welcomed, but they never shone, for Fred Hawkes and Hogg soon got their measure, and kept them well in hand.

Abe Jones and "Bob" Hawkes were both in their best form, and this trio made up a half-back line that was altogether too good for the visitors.

Given a few displays like the one under notice and Luton will rise in the League very rapidly. Had the Rangers been defeated by 3-0 they would have been unable to grumble at their luck, and a goalless draw flatters them exceedingly. When they did get within distance, it was very often because they profited by mistakes made by the defence through the slippery surface of the ground.

The first promising attack came from Luton, who forced an abortive corner, and the Rangers replied through Sugden, who kicked the ball past the farther post. Shaw punched out a free kick by Abe Jones, and a very fine shot from the foot of Rankin was cleverly saved by the visiting goalie.

Rankin shaved the cross-bar, Porter just missed one of the uprights, Arthur Jones sent the ball a trifle too high, at a lightning pace. At the other end the ball once passed right across the goal-mouth only a few inches in front of Platt, but the situation was saved by Fred Hawkes at the expense of a corner, while Shaw dropped the ball into the mud, but it was got away in time to prevent the score being opened.

The teams changed over pointless, and in the second half Luton were still the superior side. Moody, Rankin, and Abe Jones had shots saved, and a good one from Walders passed over the corner of the goal. Shaw only saved an attempt by Porter by throwing himself at full length on the ground, and the ball was luckily smuggled behind for a corner.

The teams, which were in charge of Mr. J. Sykes (of Stockport), were as follows:—

LUTON—Platt; Hogg and McCurdy; F. Hawkes Jones, and R. M. Hawkes; Walders, Rankin, A. E. Jones, Moody, and W. Porter.

QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS—Shaw; White and Fidler; Yenson, McLean, and Downing; Pentland, Sugden, Walker, Gittins, and Barnes.