

LUTON LOSE TO MILLWALL BY 1-0.

In their Southern League match with Millwall, on the Ivy-road ground, on Wednesday, Luton's goal has scarcely ever had such miraculous escapes, and what must have been tantalising to the "Dockers," nothing but sheer luck saved the home citadel from falling on at least a few occasions.

With a number of their men on the sick or injured list, Luton had of necessity to rearrange their front line. Stansfield was put at centre; Rigate was once more brought into the team at outside right, and was partnered by Haycock; Johnson and Moody constituted as usual, the left wing. McCurdy was also absent, Dimmock and Gregory doing duty at back. It could scarcely be said, therefore, that Luton had a Southern League team in the field.

On the other hand Millwall were about at top strength. With Joyce in goal, Stevenson and Sutherland at back, and Comrie centre-half, the Dockers had at any rate a good defence, and with Shand on one wing and Hunter on the other, their attack was also good on paper.

There was little in the choice of ends, though the visitors were set to play against a moderate breeze. Vincent kicked off before about four thousand spectators.

Luton opened the attack, and from a corner Jones headed wide. Millwall gradually worked up the field, and Platt had to come out to clear a long shot from Shand. Next "Tiny" had to twice handle from R. Hawkes and Jones. Then Gregory succeeded in stopping a dangerous rush by the visitors' right wing. After this Millwall's defence failed to stop the home forwards, and Moody and Stansfield had the goal at their mercy; but Moody shot well over the bar when close in. At the other end a stinging shot from Cunliffe struck the upright. Platt was all but beaten with a second shot by Cunliffe, the leather being got away with difficulty. Jones, the Millwall inside left, beat Dimmock, and Platt coming out fumbled the ball, Fred Hawkes saving in the nick of time by conceding a corner, the local Jones repeating the trick a moment later.

Gregory next fouled Cunliffe in the penalty area, but Platt brought off a brilliant save. The next point of interest was a fine individual run on the wing by Johnson; he took the ball well in, but eventually sent over the bar. The home citadel was desperately assailed after this, and was fortunate in escaping. Then Johnson was fetched down and rendered hors-de-combat for a few minutes. Shand got away, centred well, and Platt again misjudged, but Vincent headed just a few inches over. Once more the home goal had a lucky escape. But then it seemed as if just at this stage fortune was against Millwall. Rigate had a good chance, but sent behind, and subsequently Moody shot over. Once more Rigate was conspicuous for another misplaced centre. Half time arrived with Millwall pressing, but with a blank sheet.

Resuming, it took the teams some time to get into their stride. Cunliffe sent in a good shot, and Platt once more brought off a brilliant save. Shand took a pot shot, but the ball went across the goal mouth. After Fred Hawkes had called upon Joyce, Millwall raced down the field again, and Platt just managed to steer the shot away. Next Luton's custodian had to punch out a dangerous centre from Hunter. Johnson, at this stage, left the field hurt. Another big piece of luck fell to Luton. Shand centred, and Platt missed once more, but Fred Hawkes happened to be in the way of Vincent's shot, and the situation was saved for the time being.

However, Millwall were not to be denied, and the forwards once more attacked. Platt

saved the first onrush, but Gregory failed to finally clear, and from a scrimmage in front of goal, Jeffrey gave the visitors the lead. "Tiny" then fisted out a hot shot from Rigate, the first real bit of work the Luton man had done during the afternoon. Towards the close the locals put on a spurt, and the Millwall goal was in some danger, but "Tiny" was not to be beaten so easily, and time was called with the "Dockers" winners by the one goal.

It was by no means an exciting match—in fact, at times the display was not even of a moderate description. If Millwall had beaten Luton by three goals they would have had little more than they deserved. It was owing to the somewhat slow form of the visiting forwards that the "Dockers" did not find the net more than once. Jones, who played a Trojan game, was the one man on the Luton side who did so much for his side. Bradley was sadly missed, and Rigate's centres were generally poor. Luton appeared to play quite as well with ten men as with the full team. Indeed at one time they had the chance of pulling the game out of the fire; but the forwards never looked like goal getting. Thus Millwall succeeded in reversing the result of last season's match at Luton, when the Blues won 3-1.