

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST."]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S POOR DISPLAY AT WEST HAM.

Up to the present Luton have not succeeded in winning a match away this season; and on Saturday at Upton Park, the Blues met with a rather severe defeat at the hands of West Ham. It would seem as if the "Hammers" intend to give Luton the same dressing as they did last season, when they captured the maximum points, winning at Luton 3-0, and just getting home on their own ground by the only goal of the match.

There was another slight rearrangement of the visiting side. Menzies once more came in the centre, and Dimmock partnered McCurdy at back. The home side also made several alterations; Harwood was changed for Gault, Tirrell for Jarvis, and Ashton for Frost.

Luton lost the toss, and were set to play against the sun. The teams were some time in settling down. A misunderstanding between Shea and Ashton spoilt a good home move later, and subsequently Moody placed the ball on the top of the net at the other end with a really fine dropping shot. Pretty play by Stansfield gave Moody a chance, but the inside left was shouldered off the ball by Harwood before he could get in a shot. Neither side could claim much advantage at this period, and the defence on both sides generally held the upper hand, both sets of forwards showing themselves slow in initiation and deficient in combination. Fifteen minutes after the start, a weak clearance by McCurdy gave Foster a chance, which the ex-Watford man made ample use of, beating Platt all ends up with a fast rising shot at close range.

At the other end, Stansfield got in a nice run, but Moody, who received, was outnumbered, and failed to get in a shot. Then West Ham once more got away, and Blackburn, being unable to shoot himself, passed back finely to Piercy, who took careful aim and put his side two up with a fast ground drive, which caught Platt napping. Still another goal was forthcoming a minute or so later, and this was credited to Ashton, who took advantage of some slackness by the visitors' left, and beat Platt with a shot which gave the custodian no possible chance. The Hammers, who were now playing in irresistible style and showing that necessary combination which was so lacking at the commencement, gave the Luton defence little rest, and it was not long before they had the ball in the net again. Foster, who placed it there with a really grand shot, was offside, however, so the point failed to count.

Stansfield made one or two heroic attempts to turn the tide, but was badly supported and could make no impression on the home defence single-handed. Half-time came with the home team leading by 3 goals to 0.

Resuming, Ashton nearly brought the downfall of the Luton goal again, but Platt, rather luckily, managed to get the ball away. Offside against Haycock spoilt a promising move by the visitors in retaliation, and Brown over-ran the ball when in a nice position a little later. The home team continued to hold the upper hand, as in the first half, but Luton had more of the exchanges than before. Their forwards were woefully weak at close quarters though, and could make no use of an opportunity when it was afforded them.

Menzies was the chief offender, and his play made one wonder how he managed to secure his cap against England two seasons ago. Tirrell had to retire, and the Hammers continued with one man short. Brown, who had been playing in very weak fashion throughout, put in a passable sprint and centre, which found Moody admirably placed, but, unfortunately for Luton, offside. A similar decision against Foster at the other end followed, and twice afterwards Luton were pulled up for the same offence. A brilliant save by Kitchen foiled about the best Luton attempt to score this half, and Burton shot weakly when well placed at the other end. Towards the end the Hammers assumed command of the game again and succeeded in scoring a fourth goal through Foster.

Result: West Ham, 4 goals; Luton, nil.