

The Western League.

A HOLLOW VICTORY.

The Rangers Vanquished,

MENZIES IN FORM.

Luton played the Queen's Park Rangers in the Western League yesterday, and succeeded in vanquishing them by no less than eight goals to one. There were some changes from the regular Ranger's team, but the whole of the men engaged are of a first class order, and therefore a few changes cannot be of so much account. That is for the arm-chair critics to judge.

The following were the teams:—

Luton—Platt; Dimmock and Gregory; F. Hawkes Jones and R M Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Moody and Stansfield.

Queens Park Rangers: Shaw; Gillespie and McEwen, Mitchell, Morris and Berry; McDonald, Rogers, McKenzie, Drake and Law.

Referee, Mr. W. O. Clover (Leicester).

The day was much too hot for football, and glad were those people who were in the grand stand looking on. At the time for the kick-off there were but few spectators, but after the start of the match they began to roll up.

Luton, who defended the town end, kicked off against the sun, and the Rangers were the first to make an incursion, but Gregory came to the rescue. A dangerous attack by Stansfield led to a foul being recorded against Gillespie. Soon afterwards the Luton outside left made a smart run and passed to Moody, who missed an open goal, being just a little too far to trap the ball properly.

Platt made a poor clearance, and it looked as if the ball must be placed through whilst he was waiting for it to bounce, but a foul on Dimmock relieved the pressure. Drake placed a fast shot just by the goal post, and "Peter" had to save from Law.

Bob Hawkes was cheered for pulling up the right wing very smartly, and Jones was similarly admired for beating his man. Moody, who had tried very hard to pass accurately, changed his tactics and took a chance shot at goal. The ball beat the goalkeeper, but struck the bar a terrific smack, and came back again only for Haycock to have very hard luck in putting wide.

Stansfield made a good run down the field and beat several men on his side of the field, but the goalie saved his final shot, just before Haycock got on the spot.

McKenzie then scored for the visitors, this following a run by Law, who appeared to grab Dimmock by the arm. Luton appealed for a foul, but this was not awarded, and Law putting the ball back to McKenzie, the visitors' centre-forward had no difficulty in scoring. This was hard luck on Luton, for they had not had the worst of the play.

Moody gave the goalkeeper a shot to save, but as it was from a difficult angle it was not a hard one. Brown brought the goalkeeper down, as both kicked at the ball together, but the ball went out.

A penalty was awarded Luton for a foul on Stansfield in the penalty area. Gillespie jumped on the Luton man whilst the goalkeeper kicked away and the referee at once awarded the home side a penalty kick.

There were loud cries from the spectators for "Bob" to take the kick, but eventually the lot fell to Jones, who placed right outside the posts to the great disappointment of the spectators.

Brown tried a long shot at goal, but placed high over the bar. In an ensuing attack Menzies and Haycock shared the distinction between them of lowering Shaw's colours. There was an indecisive movement just outside the penalty area, and then Haycock emerged with the ball at his toe and putting in a very swift ball Shaw fell down at it, but was just a second too late.

A spectator at the back of the Luton goal unwittingly took part in an ensuing movement and received the ball bang in the face from McDonald. The spectator leisurely picked up his spectacles and then his straw hat, apparently little the worse for his ill-fortune.

Brown put a pot shot at goal just by the post. Luton, at this point, were having the better of the game, and following a fine piece of work by R. Hawkes, Menzies got right past the backs and gave Shaw a hot shot to stop, but the sphere went direct to the goalkeeper, close range though it was and he repelled it, and saved what looked like a certain goal.

Menzies got in another likely shot in the corner of the goal, but Shaw got to it and cleared. Bob Hawkes was the means of giving Luton the lead. Brown centred right from the line and in endeavouring to arrange for his kick the ball suddenly struck Hawkes on the leg above the knee, and rolling towards goal just tapped the bar and went into the net. This was the luckiest goal on the ground for some seasons.

A grand shot from a free kick by R. Hawkes looked like scoring, but Shaw, who seemed an adept at diving for the ball, brought off another great save and cleared. He is not the biggest of goalkeepers—somewhat of the size of Thompson—but he knows where the ball is likely to be placed by the forwards.

A foul on Stansfield by Mitchell evoked the anger of the crowd, but the free kick came to nothing as usual. Half-time:—

Luton 2, Rangers 1.

Menzies had been playing a good game, whilst Stansfield had ably been taking the place of the injured Johnson. The Rangers first made an assault, but this ended in an offside decision being recorded against them. A foul was also awarded against the visitors, and the frequency with which these "regrettable incidents" occurred brought forth the wrath of the crowd.

Luton's third goal was the result of fine judgment by Stansfield. He dashed along the wing

and put the ball across to the centre. There was a bully in front of the Rangers' goal, and Brown twisting round quickly hit Shaw on the knee and the ball glanced off into the net.

Still more was to come for Moody got clear on the right wing and putting across to the left Stansfield dashed in and placed the ball at a fast rate into the net, Shaw again being too late to intercept it. Thus Luton's fourth point was registered.

The fifth came at once, for Brown forced a corner and taking the kick himself, placed just in front of the bar and Moody headed into the net. Shaw had no chance of getting at the ball, as a matter of fact he almost followed it into the net.

Brown made a great run down the right wing, and just as he got to the goal-line skied the ball. Haycock and the two backs tried to head the ball away but it only went to Menzies, who very coolly shot into the net and notched the sixth goal.

The Luton goal had an escape, for the Rangers' forwards broke away, and the ball coming to Law, the old Watford lad shot hard, but F Hawkes got in the way.

Haycock was doing an amount of work, and he and the centre forward brought off the next goal between them. Haycock sent the sphere over to the centre, and Menzies added the seventh. There was absolutely no stopping Luton, and Moody with a hot drive struck the cross-bar.

Brown placed a corner which he had forced, and later got the ball into the net, but was ruled offside.

Moody felt the weight of Shaw's fist in the ensuing play, as both went for the ball, and at the same time insult was added to injury by the referee ruling the Luton man offside. Platt made a great save from the inside right by pouncing on the ball, and then clearing, and Dimmock showed resource in defence by giving a throw-in instead of a corner.

Rogers brought the ball through again, and had only Platt to beat, but he unaccountably sent wide of goal. The last goal followed a free kick for a foul on F. Hawkes just outside the penalty area. F. Hawkes, by the poetic justice of Fate was the means of getting the goal, the ball coming to him from the left and a Ranger considerably putting him onside by touching it.

The end, therefore, came with Luton leading by the following margin:—

Luton 8 goals, Rangers 1 goal.

Notes on the Game.

The weather on Wednesday was terrible for the footballer, but the men went through the 90 minutes and showed very little slackness during the whole of the game.

The man who showed the best advance in form was Menzies. His passes were well-timed, and well directed, and the way he shot a couple of goals left nothing to be desired. It is a pleasure also to see the keenness with which Stansfield played. Next to Menzies he gave the most improved account of himself.

The right wing was good also, and Haycock and Brown played together very nicely. Moody was a trifle unfortunate at the beginning but after he had tried his luck at goal, his shots were always feared, whilst his heading was of the highest class.

The halves were a good trio, but the Captain made a mistake in not undertaking the penalty kick. The latter is nearly always—perhaps always—a “dead cert” when Bob manipulates the ball. Perhaps he will take the advice of the crowd which was tendered him from all quarters, and take the shot himself another time.

The backs were sound, and Platt had but little to do. He saved three or four shots magnificently, and no goalie can do more.

The Rangers, generally, were a poor lot. They made a great start but felt the effects of the weather, and in the second half except for rare bursts, curled themselves up and retired to their shells. The referee missed several points which he might have seen, but once Luton have to be thankful that he did not award the Rangers a penalty.