

Western League.

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

BIG WIN FOR THE BLUES.

That big win which Luton have been vainly looking for lately to give them a fillip, fell to their lot on Wednesday, when on their own ground, they beat Queen's Park Rangers 3-1 in the Western League. One seldom sees such a decisive win on the Ivy-road enclosure, and, what is better still, the victory was thoroughly deserved.

True, one would have preferred to have seen a stronger side against Luton. However, Menzies at last came into his own. If this is an indication of the new centre-forward's form, then he may succeed in doing some good things for the Town. He was THE forward on the field on Wednesday. Particularly in the second half did Menzies shine, playing, as he did, real class football. The passing of the centre man was generally accurate to a degree; he was fast as a rule, and always dangerous especially those long passes to the wings; and besides, he was better supported than he generally has been. Evidently, the other forwards are beginning to learn Menzies' style of play, and when there is a complete understanding between the quintette, Luton may yet possess a formidable line of attack.

At half-time the score was 2-1 in favour of the locals; but scarcely anyone was prepared for so many goals in the second 45 minutes. The fact is, however, that Luton had practically the whole of the play, though it must be granted that the Rangers found luck against them once or twice. Luton seemed to have had a regular wakening up. Haycock put some life into his play, Moody was never idle, while both wing men, particularly Stansfield, gave a good exhibition. On the other hand the visiting forwards were generally undecided, and there was an absence of combination. Their defence was also weak, though Shaw, in goal, did very well, and could scarcely be blamed for any of the shots that beat him.

Luton kicked off against a scorching sun. After Gregory had cleared, the locals got away, and Menzies was conspicuous for a nice bit of work, but the effort was not followed up. The visitors' left wing was getting well away, when Dimmock handled. The shot came well in, but Gregory headed as well away. Stansfield was fouled near the visitors' goal, and from one of "Bob's" shots Luton were a little unfortunate in not finding the net. Menzies put a beautiful pass to Stansfield. The outside man placed the ball right into the goal mouth, but Moody missed a golden opportunity, and the Rangers cleared somewhat luckily. Then McDonald raced away, and gave Platt a stinging shot, Peter stopping the ball, and dropping it, and getting it away just in the nick of time as Drake came up. Some nice dribbling play was next seen on both sides. The Rangers getting away, Rogers centred, and Drake shot wide.

Subsequently, Moody took a pot shot, but the ball wobbled between the bar and the upright. Apparently the leather went beneath the bar, but Luton made no appeal, and the game proceeded. Menzies was now very conspicuous in the Luton lines. Stansfield, beating the half and the back, made a fine run on the wing, and Shaw had to come out to punch away a well directed shot. The Rangers' defence was hard pressed for a time, but Gillespie succeeded in passing to his left wing. Law beat Dimmock, and practically on the goal line passed back to Drake, who, with an almost open goal, had no difficulty in opening the score for the Rangers after 20 minutes' play.

Shortly after this, the visitors' goal was in difficulties. Menzies broke through the defence and sent in, but there was no "powder" behind the shot, and Shaw cleared. Stansfield was next fouled in the penalty area. There were calls for "Bob," but Jones took the shot, sending very wide indeed, it being altogether a very bad kick. Then after Platt had cleared from Drake, Brown, who was well

placed by Menzies, shot high over. However, immediately afterwards the visitors' backs muddled the ball, and Menzies smartly equalised.

Luton once more took up the attack. "Bob" sent across, but Brown's rasping shot went a little too wide. Then Menzies working his way almost under the bar shot right at Shaw, who easily punched out. Next Platt came out to a long shot from McKenzie, and the ball came well down the field. After Shaw had fisted out from Stansfield, "Bob" scored a "fluky" goal for Luton. The home captain took a slow, hazard shot, the ball striking the upright, and slowly rolling into the net. This put Luton ahead, and made up for their hard luck.

Luton were awarded a free a few yards outside the penalty area. "Bob" took the kick, but Shaw just succeeded in stopping a well-directed shot. Haycock then sent outrageously wide across the goal. Half-time arrived with the Blues leading by 2-1.

Resuming, after Luton were denied, Rogers, the Rangers' inside right, broke away, and in hustling him off the ball, Gregory looked uncommonly as if he had fouled. But the referee took no notice. Soon Brown increased Luton's lead. The ball was hovering round the Rangers' goal for some minutes, when the Luton wing man shot when close in, the ball going into the net off Shaw's toe. The home-sters were again after goals. Brown centred, and Stansfield coming up, sent into the net at a terrific pace.

McEwen conceded a corner to Haycock. Brown sent in a real beauty, which Moody prettily headed into the net. The locals were practically now having matters all their own way. Shaw saved a stinging shot from Moody. Platt at the other end had to punch out, and again to hold from McDonald. The visitors' goal was again in trouble, and Menzies, who was unmarked, put on the Blues' sixth goal. After the Rangers probably ought to have had a penalty, the locals cleared, and the forwards were set in motion. Brown sent from the wing, and Menzies once more found the net. Next the visitors' goal had a marvellous escape. Moody essayed a hot shot which struck the upright, but eventually the Rangers' lines were cleared.

The next point of interest was when Platt had to come out to save from Rogers. The same player shortly afterwards got through, and had some misfortune in missing the mark. A foul just outside the visitors' penalty line brought further misfortune to Queen's Park, Fred Hawkes placing safely into the net. Moody had a clear chance of running through, but he aimed too early and sent high over. When the whistle blew for time, the locals were still on the aggressive.

Result: Luton, 8 goals; Queen's Park, 1.