

FOOTBALL.

Luton Easily First.

PORTSMOUTH TROUNCED.

HOME TEAM'S SHOOTING BOOTS.

Moody's Bagfull.

The position of Portsmouth on the League table corresponded so nearly to Luton's on Saturday that an even game was confidently expected. Portsmouth had 12 points to their credit on Saturday morning for 13 matches played, whilst Luton were two pegs below them on the table with 10 points for 11 matches.

Luton: Platt; Folley and Gregory; F. Hawkes, Jones and R. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Moody, and Stansfield.

Portsmouth: A. C. Brown; Smith and Clipston; Digweed, Burck and Beaumont; Birtles, Kirby, Reid, McCafferty, and E. Williams.

Referee: Mr. T. P. Campbell (Blackburn).

The visitors won the toss, and played with the advantage of the wind, which had more effect on the ball than might naturally be expected on such a day. Portsmouth forced the play on the right, the Luton men appearing stiff in their movements. Folley gave a corner, but R. Hawkes headed away, and then Smith returned, and the ball went by the goal.

Luton were enjoined to play up, and they wanted this encouragement, for they were very poor in defence, and Portsmouth did a good deal as they liked. Try how they would, Luton could not break away, and shots were put in at the Luton end, but generally they went astray.

The Portsmouth left wing put up a nice passing bout, which took the ball to the Luton end of the field, and Williams shot across, and Platt was tackled as he went to clear, and a goal seemed certain when the ball fell at Kirby's feet, but Platt stooped down and made a great save.

Luton then woke up, and for the first time forced the play to the other end, where Haycock shot at goal, but Williams easily cleared. Stansfield was fouled, and from the free kick a corner followed. This was placed well, but the ball eventually came again to Stansfield, who shot and Menzies headed just by the post.

Platt had to save from Clipston and fell with the ball, but was able to recover the sphere and kick away. A stoppage resulted through one of the visitors getting hurt. In the next minute Haycock was in front of goal, but he put wide.

Williams shot hard at the Luton goal, but Platt again saved, and he was called upon again by Reid, who sent a very hard shot straight at the goalkeeper. They improved considerably, and Haycock charged Clipston off the ball and took a shot, which Brown saved splendidly.

Luton played a better game at this point, and put any amount of energy into the work, and this had its reward in some pressure being exerted on the Portsmouth goal. Moody was given off-side very luckily for the visitors, as he would have had an easy chance of scoring. It was a very narrow squeak for Portsmouth.

Brown was to the front with some good play, and he had hard luck in putting behind. Then the unexpected happened. Buick put in a long kick, which went sailing towards the Luton goal. Platt rushed out for the ball, which was being pursued by Reid. "Right" shouted Platt to Gregory, but at the same minute Reid was on the ball, and dashing at Platt got possession of the sphere, and walked it into the open goal.

Luton's equaliser came almost at once as a corner was given by Smith. This was well taken by Stansfield, and after touching it about in front of goal, Moody got the ball in the air and easily beat Brown, knocking down Smith in the process.

An excellent chance of scoring was missed by Reid. Following some grand passing by Portsmouth forwards, Kirby headed to Reid, who got under the ball and put it over the goal and out of the ground. Moody headed into the goalkeeper's hands, and for quite a long time Luton had the better of the play.

The ball was actually got into the net a minute later by Moody, but Brown had been ruled offside. A real good goal was got just afterwards, as Haycock put in a cross shot, and Brown could not withstand the dash of Moody, and Stansfield, who met the ball, and Moody landed it in the net.

Moody lay in the net, and was being roused by his comrades, and it looked as if the forward received the punch from the goalkeeper. Happily he soon recovered his usual state and the game was resumed.

Moody had ample revenge just afterwards, for the ball kept bobbing about in front of goal. Buick was at fault, and Moody getting the ball to his left foot, shot hard at goal, and Brown was hopelessly beaten by a very skilful drive.

The Luton Brown was incorrectly ruled offside, and the referee seeing his mistake gave a goal kick. The visitors then broke away, and Kirby had a chance of adding to the Portsmouth total, but he kicked wildly over the bar, and the ball went out of the ground. Interval:

LUTON	3 goals
Portsmouth	one goal

Twice Portsmouth made attempts at goal, but on neither occasion did the ball get home. Reid looked for certain a scorer as he broke quite clear, and had only Platt to beat, but he tried to break through the net, and only hit the bar instead.

Reid brought the Portsmouth men back by charging Jones unfairly, and the referee gave a free kick. The play seemed to lag a bit at this point. A nice piece of combination between Bob Hawkes, Moody, and Stansfield brought the leather through the defence, but the last-named was ruled offside.

Platt was charged over with the ball in his arms, but he held tight, and put the ball across to Folley, who was hampered so much that he could not clear, and it was left to Gregory to conclude the pressure by a kick which put the ball into Ivy Road.

Luton's goal had a lucky escape from downfall. Gregory was to blame in the first place for weak play, and Portsmouth following up the advantage Platt was hard pressed to keep the ball out.

Brown was bowled over with a good deal of force, but he resumed at once. Menzies twice tried his luck with long shots, but they went wide. Gregory deliberately handled the ball, which was sailing over his head, and from the free kick the sphere went across the mouth of the goal, and a corner was conceded, but proved useless.

Another goal fell to the lot of the home team just afterwards. Moody put in a grand pass to his partner. "Harold" drew in very nicely, and

then shot hard at goal. The ball struck the goal-post, and was just on the line, and to make the goal a certainty Moody put the ball into the net. It required Moody's touch, so that he notched his fourth goal of the afternoon.

Platt made a grand save from Kirby, and was simply atoning for his shortcoming in the first half.

Brown was playing a fine game on the outside right, and was causing any amount of trouble to the defence. The visitors turned the tables, and for a short time had the better of the play, but the effort only culminated in another high flying kick over the bar by Reid, who might have done much better.

Jones was hustled by Reid, but though he had to run towards his own goal, he got the better of the duel, and passed to Brown. The ball was transferred to the opposite wing, where Stansfield beat a couple of men and centred. Haycock let the leather go to Brown, who grazed the bar.

Brick was knocked down by Jones, and there appeared a chance of something unpleasant happening, but the referee was fully alive to things, and kept the players under control. About five minutes from time Kirby, who had been limping, finally left the field.

Brown made a brilliant dash on the right, and dodging backwards and forwards, at last forced a corner, which he took so well that Menzies had only to give the ball a little tap with the side of his head to score the fifth goal. Result:

LUTON

Portsmouth

5 goals

1 goal

Notes on the Game

GOALS GALORE.

FOUR FOR MOODY.

Luton's favourite song just now is "Put me among the goals." They were there all right on Saturday, when they touched their best form in the match with Portsmouth. After Platt's gift goal there was no holding the Town, and they kept up a hot pace right to the finish. For the first 20 minutes the visitors fought every inch of the ground, and when Platt made his unaccountable blunder they had a good sporting chance. Those who thought so had, however, reckoned without Moody, for before the interval the Luton inside left had put on a trio of goals. Thus at half-time the Town was standing on velvet.

It was a great day for the Luton left wing. Moody was, of course, the hero of the match, but Stansfield played a great game. The fourth goal was really his alone, for Moody found the ball on the line, and completed his partner's work. Menzies, who found the strong wind interfered with his swinging passes, got the fifth point by a well-timed header.

Portsmouth made a good bid in the second half, but their shooting was all awry, and towards the close they tailed off to nothing.

Gregory more than confirmed the good opinions formed of him. He never took a risk, and did not hesitate to kick out when pressed. This is not a showy manoeuvre, of course, but it has the merit of safety. His kicking would gain in length if he did not get so much "loft" on the ball. Folley started as if he was over-awed by the importance of the occasion, and in the first twenty minutes never looked safe. He improved steadily towards the close, and was playing a good game at the finish.

Mr. Tom Campbell, who refereed in the Olympic games, held the whistle. If all our referees were as good there would be less cause for complaint. The crowd protested on two occasions, but in each Mr. Campbell was right. What he does not know about the offside rule is not worth learning. With Mr. John Lewis he shared the distinction of being the best referee in England.

Haycock reappeared vice Bradley, and played a hard, bustling game. A fine shot of his which the visitors' amateur custodian found too hot to hold led up to one of Luton's goals. With most of the play on the left wing, Brown did not show up quite so well as we have seen him, but he gave a good exhibition, for all that. The halves did well to a man, Jones perhaps being the pick. In this player I think we have the solution of the difficulty caused by the weakness at right full back. He has all the physique necessary, and with White ready to step into his place at centre half, the matter is worth consideration.

Luton are now well in the top half of the table, and if the defence could be solidified they would climb still higher. It is here we are let down away from home. Folley played well enough when the game was won, but he has a lot to learn. The experiment of playing Jones at full back might be made in a Western League match. With the Cup Tie season approaching, one would like to see a definite attempt made to put more strength into the defence.