

FOOTBALL.

SOUTHERN LEAGUE POINTS.

LUTON'S EASY VICTORY.

Coventry go to the Wall.

MENZIES AT CENTRE FORWARD,

Luton secured an easy victory over Coventry City at home on Saturday, beating the new Southern League team by 6-1.

The following were the teams:—

Luton: Platt; McCurdy and Gregory; F. Hawkes, Jones and R. M. Hawkes; Stansfield, Haycock, Menzies, Moody, and Johnson.

Coventry: Archer; Juggins and Drennan; Chaplin, Dodds and Dougherty; Tickle, Arnold, Warren, Fisher and Hopkins.

Referee: Mr. T. Campbell, of Blackburn.

The referee being late, Mr. Hills, a linesman, acted in that capacity for about ten minutes. A couple of chances presented themselves to the home team early in the game, but a shot by Stansfield went over the bar. The home side had the better of the game, and a promising run down by the forwards ended in Moody putting the ball behind.

Platt had to be alert to save a long shot which the forwards closely followed up, but Peter cleared and Bob then set the home side on the move, but Menzies lost the ball and could not recover it, but offside pulled Coventry up. The ball came to the other end, and a glancing ball skimmed over to Johnson, who shaved the bar.

Dougherty gave away a corner, but headed away from the flag kick; but returning again the ball was carried behind. A pretty piece of passing from head to head brought Coventry into the vicinity of the Luton goal, but Peter guided the ball safely by the goal-post.

Bob took the ball behind for a useless corner kick, and for a time play was in the neighbourhood of the Luton goal, but the Coventry forwards never looked dangerous. Luton had terrifically hard luck with a series of shots in goal, the goalie saving several shots, and Haycock absolutely beating him with a high shot which struck the bar.

Haycock scored a fine goal, receiving from the half-back, dodging past Drennan, and driving the ball home in a narrow space between the goalie and the goal post, to the accompaniment of cheers. The same player nearly added a second.

This, however, was left to Menzies, for following a hot shot by Haycock, which Archer repelled, beating the goalkeeper for a second time. Arnold turned the ball into Platt's hands, but Platt was safe, and he also did well to save a ball twisting very awkwardly.

Then a third goal fell to Luton, Bob Hawkes

scoring following a corner taken by Johnson, several players bobbing down heads to let the sphere pass. The goalkeeper never had a chance to stop the ball, and he was left helpless again.

Menzies notched the fourth goal, taking the ball by several opponents and then driving it home, Archer being too late to stop its progress. Half time:—

LUTON, 4 GOALS.

COVENTRY, NIL.

Luton had another soft goal just afterwards. Moody shot the ball in, and Haycock drove it against the goalkeeper, who then fell, leaving Haycock and Stansfield in possession of the ball just under the bar. They looked at one another to see which should add the finishing touch, and the lot fell to Stansfield.

Johnson found himself in happy possession on the left, and quite unmarked put across to the centre, when Haycock met the sphere with his head and put through out of Archer's reach.

Twice the vistsors got to the Luton end, and each time Tickle tried Platt, but Platt was equal to each trial, and fisted away the ball. Once the

Luton defence seemed to be in trouble, when Gregory was floored, but Luton's goalkeeper was on the spot and saved.

Warren interfered with Arnold when the latter should have tried to score, but Luton profited by the slackness to kick the ball away. Tickle had to leave the field a quarter of an hour from the end, and Coventry had only ten men.

Warren and Arnold made a fine attack quite on their own, and passing and repassing they broke right through, and Warren ended the first and last combined movement of the Coventry side by smartly netting the ball. Tickle returned at this success.

In the waning light Coventry forced a corner, but this was useless once more, and time eventually came with the score:—

LUTON, 6 GOALS.

COVENTRY, 1 GOAL.

Notes on the Game

CITIZENS CRUSHED.

So far this season the position of Coventry City has been among the humble and meek. In other words, their proximity to the bottom of the League table has been continuous. They came to Luton hoping that the long lane of defeat would show a welcome turning. It was a muggy, moist, unpleasant afternoon, and Coventry are not a team to rouse up any great and abounding enthusiasm. This is the first season of the Citizens in the Southern League, and their latest performance in the English Cup ties has not been a credit to that organisation. They allowed themselves to be defeated by Carlisle United, a north country junior team that is not much above the standard of Luton Reserve.

Consequently, on Saturday, it was expected that Luton would mend their goal average, which has had a tendency to get somewhat lopsided in recent matches. With Menzies back in the team there was every hope in this direction.

Succeeding events proved that Luton had the easiest of tasks, and Coventry's defeat ended in a rout. With every desire to be charitable to Saturday's visitors, I must say that the bottom of the League table is their proper place. They are the worst side I have seen this season. It is to be hoped that Saturday's form was too bad to be true.

Luton, though they did not settle into their stride very quickly, were not long before they had the game in hand. So well did Johnson play that the forward line did not suffer by Brown's absence and Stansfield's transfer to the right wing.

Menzies signalled his re-appearance by a couple of good goals. There was a refreshing vitality about Luton's attack. They went for the whole ninety minutes, and every one of the basketful of goals was deserved.

Truth to tell, the Citizens ideas of football were most elementary, and Johnson had quite a birthday on the left wing. It was quite a common spectacle to see him dodge three men in succession. The opposing full back bore the cognomen of Juggins. As the oft-quoted lyric says, there were others.

No; there was little art and less craft about Coventry. The keenest of "Peeping Toms" would have lost his eyesight before he had seen anything to admire in their display.