

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST."]

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. COVENTRY CITY.

Saturday's game on the Ivy-road ground was of a very "sleepy" character; play was exceptionally tame, and there were few points of interest. In the end Luton won by six goals to one, and have thus made their average look a little better on paper. Now, the team have scored 31 goals, and the peculiar thing about it is that they have also had 31 goals scored against them.

The turf was somewhat slippery on Saturday afternoon, but that did not wholly account for such a poor display. There was a poor gate, the attendance being about 4,000. One cannot help repeating that this is a regrettable feature of local football supporters, as they will only turn up on occasions when they fancy there will be a good game. That is as bad a trait as is the other characteristic of local "sportsmen," that Luton ought always to win.

The teams lined up as follows:—

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

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

It will be seen that the visitors were at full strength, but Luton were without Brown, who is on the injured list.

"Bob" won the toss, and the home side immediately opened the attack, a fine centre by Johnson giving Stansfield a nice opportunity right away, which the old "Spur" mulled hopelessly. Then the City broke away, and a miss by McCurdy very nearly allowed them to score, but Platt saved the situation in the nick of time, and subsequently Luton returned on the left. Nothing of note occurred, however, and although the home team continued a brisk pressure, they failed to give Archer a great deal to do. Play by degrees was carried to the other end, and here Platt was troubled on more than one occasion; but the custodian was perfectly sound, and play veered to the Coventry territory again, where Haycock secured, and, working an opening cleverly for himself, opened the score with an absolutely magnificent effort that had Archer beaten completely.

This success, after half-an-hour's play, only whetted the appetite of the home team for more, and from the re-start they practically monopolised the play, Menzies speedily adding a second goal for them. R. Hawkes was the next to lower Archer's colours, and before half-time arrived the custodian was beaten yet again, this time by Menzies. Half-time consequently arrived with Luton leading by 4 goals to 0.

Resuming, Coventry were first to press, and forced a corner. Another followed, but without result. Luton retaliated on the left wing, and F. Hawkes sent in a shot, which Archer cleared in smart fashion. Haycock shot at close range, but Archer held the ball and threw away. Johnson had an opportunity of breaking through on two occasions, but each time was offside. Haycock made a fine run, and centred to Menzies, who shot well, but Archer brought off a brilliant save.

Next Haycock put in a shot which Archer fumbled, so that Stansfield had little difficulty in scoring the fifth goal. It was evident by this time that Coventry were outplayed, and Luton monopolised the game. Johnson was conspicuous for a fine run, and from his centre Stansfield shot wide. Later Johnson put across another centre from which Haycock headed a sixth goal. Twice Platt was tested with long shots, and then Luton returned to their target practice. However, Coventry took advantage of the lax defence of the home team, and Warren scored their only goal.

Result: Luton, 6 goals; Coventry, 1 goal.

There was not much combination on either side, but Coventry were exceptionally weak in front of goal. The chopping of the Luton wings considerably affected the home attack. Under almost any circumstances, it is a great mistake to break up a wing like that made by Stansfield and Moody. Coventry had a little hard luck, and they certainly did not deserve to be beaten by quite 6-1, if one takes into account the fact that Luton had one or two goals practically given to them. The chief feature, perhaps, of Saturday's match was the wonderful improvement in the home defence. McCurdy, and particularly Gregory, played a fine game, and both men were generally safe.