

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST."]

LUTON LOSE AT LEYTON.

Luton Town were at Leyton on Saturday, and returned leaving the two points behind them. Still, this season we have divided the honours with Leyton, as we won at home last September 2—1. It may be remembered that last season the Essex team took all four points out of Luton, winning at home 5—0, and on the Ivy-road ground, 3—0. However, in the Western League this season Leyton have succumbed to the strawplaiters on both occasions, Luton winning at home 2—0, and away 2—1. So perhaps after all there is not a great deal in it, excepting that it is Southern League points that count.

On Saturday, Luton had to take the field without McCurdy who was injured in the Cup-tie with Millwall the previous week, and Dimmock accordingly partnered Gregory. "Bob" was also absent, and the half-line was re-arranged, White coming in at centre-half, and Jones going on the left. Those were the extent of Luton's changes.

The home side won the toss, and Menzies having kicked off, Luton soon found their feet and opened the attack. Brown sent in a beautiful centre, but the centre-forward failed to reach the ball before Buchanan, the Leyton half, cleared. Play was eventually transferred, and Nicholls, the outside right, forced a fruitless corner. After this the Blues were very dangerous, but Menzies spoiled the effort by passing to Haycock, who was well off-side. Jones initiated Luton's next attack, and Brown was put in possession; but Whitbourne ran out and smartly cleared. Leyton worked down the right, and Cresser tested Platt with a long shot. Luton then pressed, but Buchanan made a timely clearance. Jones put in a bouncing shot which Whitbourne punched away. Leyton worried their way up the field, and Seeburg gave Nicholls the chance for an oblique shot, but he kicked weakly, and Platt saved, following this up by punching another shot out of goal.

A most inexplicable incident followed. Gregory, the Luton back, handled accidentally somewhere on the edge of the penalty area. The referee immediately signalled a penalty; the Luton players protested. The referee consulted the linesmen, and again signalled a penalty. He then consulted the linesmen again, and this time threw the ball up. Other decisions of his with regard to offside were rather difficult to understand. Leyton continued to press and Buchanan crashed in a fine shot which just missed. Gray set up a fine attack which Ryder carried on, and Platt saved by tipping the ball over the bar. Another shot from Nicholls was equally well saved by the Luton custodian. So far Leyton were doing well, and Platt was having a busy time. Renneville was injured and Moody also left the field, so that the teams were now playing ten a-side. Seeburg ran cleverly through the Luton defence, but shot wide. Brown centred well for Luton and Stansfield headed in, but Whitbourne cleared. Half-time came with no score.

Resuming, Luton gained a free kick and Whitbourne had to clear. Then Leyton attacked and Renneville shot over. Nicholls put in a dangerous centre which Gregory cleared for a corner. Nicholls then put in an oblique shot which skimmed the bar. Renneville put the ball through for Leyton from Nicholls' centre, but the ball had crossed the line before he centred and the point was not allowed. Seeburg made a fine opening for Renneville who shot from a difficult angle and scored. Platt touched the ball in flight but could not prevent it entering the net. This score came after an hour's play.

Leyton had the best of the play after this, but too often attempted close play, which the defenders were able to cope with. Gregory conceded a corner and this was excellently placed, but Platt cleared his goal. Another corner followed, which Platt cleared in a similar manner, but Gray put the ball into the centre again, where Seeburg gave Ryder a chance, and he scored with a hard drive ten minutes from time. From a centre from Nicholls, Ryder had a chance close in, but lifted the ball over the bar. Leyton had matters now all their own way, and won comfortably.

Result :—Leyton 2, Luton nil.