

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST"].

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. WEST HAM.

LOCALS WIN BY THE ODD GOAL.

On Saturday afternoon Luton managed to win against West Ham United, in the Southern League, on the Ivy-road ground. The turf was very hard, and consequently the game was not very fast, but at times there was some interesting mid-field play. In the end Luton won by the only goal of the match.

So the Strawplaiters have got a little bit of their own back. Last season the Hammers obtained the maximum four points out of Luton, winning here 3-0, and at home 1-0. At West Ham earlier this season Luton were badly beaten by 4 goals to love.

Having been injured in the Cup-tie with Millwall, McCurdy was still unable to take the field, and his place was taken by Chapman, the Bedford player, who has recently been signed on for the local club. Moody was also absent through illness, the vacancy being filled by Johnson. The United had a couple of changes on their side, Waggott taking the place of Burton in the front line, while Chalkley, a reserve player, turned out at centre-half.

The gate was a wretchedly poor one, the crowd numbering not more than three thousand, when Menzies kicked off against a stiff breeze. The visitors opened the attack, and were soon dangerous, forcing a couple of corners in quick time. Nothing resulted, however, and Johnson transferred play, and centred nicely to Brown, who, however, failed to reach the ball. Haycock tested Kitchen, and then Frost called upon Platt at the other end. The Luton right wing was again conspicuous, and carried the ball well up the field, but Brown put behind.

After midfield play, a scrimmage among the Luton backs gave Shea a fine opportunity, but lack of sting in the shot enabled Platt to clear. Luton now pressed, but finished poorly, whilst from a corner Hawkes headed behind. Platt was called upon to clear his goal several times, but he was never in serious difficulties. A run by Luton gave Brown a chance to centre, and Menzies obtained the ball, and scored. Immediately after this, Johnson had a possible chance, but Kitchen saved, and the sides crossed over with Luton leading by the one goal.

Resuming with the wind in their favour, Luton attacked, and Bob Hawkes shot over the bar. Then Blackburn sprinted down the West Ham left, and centred to Waggott, but Platt saved the shot. Play was very fast, and the exchanges were rapid and frequent. Kitchen saved from Johnson, and Platt from Frost and then Yenson. Brown made a smart run, and Kitchen had to save from Haycock and Jones. Luton attacked smartly on two occasions, and Kitchen saved from Gregory, who shot well at long range.

After Luton had taken a corner, Frost ran through the home defence, but Platt rushed out and saved. The Hammers again attacked, and Platt was temporarily disabled. Bob Hawkes made a clever run, and Blackburn was also conspicuous for a speedy sprint, while Platt saved twice at close quarters. The light ball repeatedly beat the players, and frequently upset their calculations. Towards the end Luton had the attack, and forced two corners, but Kitchen saved three times in succession, and the game ended:—

Luton, 1 goal; West Ham, nil.

On the whole it was not much of a game. Considering the chances the West Ham forwards had, the visitors scarcely deserved to lose, as it must be confessed that the home goal had one or two marvellous escapes. Platt played a really brilliant game, even if he was a trifle fortunate once or twice. High shots, of course, were Kitchen's delight, and consequently he was not to be beaten a second time.

As a matter of fact, Menzies' shot which took effect was not a particularly brilliant effort that now and then come off. On the home side Chapman played a very plucky game at back, and proved himself a good partner to Gregory. As a make-shift, the Bedford man has by far the first claim. The halves played a fair game, but Moody was missed in the forward line, Johnson, his substitute, being inclined to wander far too much.