

Football Notes and News.

[By "GOALPOST"].

Southern League.

LUTON v. EXETER CITY.

ROBINSON'S BRILLIANT GOALKEEPING

Luton Town entertained Exeter City on Saturday afternoon, the match being played under ideal conditions. After such a long rest one expected to see a larger gate; the attendance was scarcely much above 4,000. Both teams were at full strength, comparatively speaking, the only alteration being in the visitors' ranks, Tierney taking Chadwick's place at centre half. At Exeter, it may be recalled, Luton lost 2-1.

Luton won the spin, and Bob Hawkes decided to take advantage of a fair breeze. The locals at once opened the attack, and in the first few minutes of the game Robinson brilliantly stopped a fast drive from Haycock. A few minutes later Haycock was again prominent, and sent in a tremendous drive. Robinson was still on the alert, and saved at the expense of a corner. Stansfield forced a second corner, and for a considerable time Luton did all the attacking. Only exceptional work by Robinson kept the home side from running up several goals. Exeter broke away, but Parnell muffed badly. Again the visitors attacked, and Platt had to throw himself full length to save from Parnell.

A minute later Robinson made another brilliant save from Haycock. The dangerous sprints by the visitors' wing men caused Luton's defence some trouble. Luton did most of the attacking, however, Brown hitting the bar once. Fred Hawkes handled in the fatal area. McGuigan took the shot, but Platt succeeded in breasting out. Moody hit the post at the other end, and the interval arrived with no score.

Resuming, Brown, who had retired hurt just prior to the interval, returned none the worse. Exeter had the better of the exchanges, and Parnell and Watson both made splendid efforts to score. Platt saved brilliantly, but Copestake got in a minute later and scored Exeter's first goal. Luton forced a fruitless corner, and then Robinson saved finely from Menzies and Haycock. The home side were unlucky to be behind in the matter of goal-scoring, for they had quite three-fourths of the attacking. Luton made strong but unavailing efforts to score.

A little later a big surprise was given the crowd, for Bob Hawkes appeared to have an easy chance of clearing an attack by the visitors, but he failed to trap the ball properly, and Watson scored with a hard drive from twenty yards' range. The locals tried hard to improve matters, and gave Robinson some good shots to dispose of, but he kept a brilliant goal.

Result: Exeter 2, Luton 0.

Undoubtedly the feature of Saturday's game was the brilliant goalkeeping of Robinson; it is a long time since one has witnessed such an exhibition at Luton. In the first moiety the Luton forwards, particularly Haycock, went in for a regular series of sharp-shooting, and the manner in which the Exeter custodian kept out shot after shot was simply marvellous. Ordinarily, Luton would have been three or four goals up in the first half, and the fact that the visitors had a clean sheet at the interval was entirely due to the brilliant performance of Robinson.

When Luton found themselves two goals down ten minutes after the restart, they seemed to fall to pieces. The backs have seldom been seen so weak; McCurdy's performance was poor, but the jeering of the crowd was not calculated to improve matters. Gregory's suspicious tactics also tended to spoil the game. The half line was surprisingly ineffective. "Bob," who was entirely responsible for Exeter's second goal, was scarcely more than a passenger; Jones was much below his usual form; and F. Hawkes never seemed to get into his stride—he defended well, but failed to feed his forwards with judgment.

Luton's right wing was all that could be desired, while Stansfield was also much in evidence. On the other hand, Menzies generally lagged too far behind, and Moody was not so conspicuous as is generally the case. Platt was fairly safe, and could not be blamed for either shot that beat him. It was hard luck for Peter that after saving brilliantly twice in quick succession, he should be beaten by the third shot. If pace is any judge, one imagines that Exeter were slightly better trained compared to Luton, as they held out longer. On the whole, it was rather a peculiar game. Exeter had no luck in winning, and yet, on the other hand, Luton ought to have crossed over with the lead.

The receipts of Saturday's gate amounted to about £86, which is scarcely sufficient to cover current expenses.