

BLUES UNEXPECTEDLY WIN AFTER A CLOSE GAME

Wednesday's match on the Ivy-road ground, between Luton and Watford, had all the appearance of ending in a draw of a couple of goals each. That was how the score stood just on 10 minutes to time, when if there was any attacking being done it was on the part of Watford. However, all of a sudden Luton "came out of their shell," and won handsomely by 4 goals to 2.

Watford were at full strength, but their opponents could scarcely be said to be so. Moore was still doing duty for Moody in the front line, while after his injury on Saturday R. M. Hawkes was unable to turn out, his place being taken by Trueman.

The home side had the advantage of both breeze and sun, and Cleaver kicked off for Watford before nearly 4,000.

Luton attempted to force the game at the start, and the wing passing was very pretty indeed. The right wing was particularly aggressive, "Brown" and Quinn showing some really clever combination. Grieve and Betts, who were defending on the Watford left flank, were practically bottled up, and Higgins was extremely lucky in escaping disaster. A curler from Smith was just taken by the custodian almost under the bar.

After Luton had held the upper hand for a quarter of an hour, it was rather disappointing to see Watford find the net at the first time of asking. The visitors raced up the field, Squires passed out to Moore, and somehow or other the home defence lost their heads. Chapman, instead of "going for his man," gave Moore every chance, and the Watford outside left made no mistake, beating Jarvis with a rather tame shot.

However, this reverse put the Luton players on their mettle, and the forwards made a combined attack on the Watford citadel, ending in Stansfield equalising with a powerful oblique drive.

Play ruled more even after this. Watford were showing a fine defence, but their attacking lacked finality to their efforts. On the other hand Luton were playing a good all round game. It must be admitted that shots were sent in by both sides that deserved to score. Eventually, however, Luton were given the lead. Lockett failed to stop Stansfield, and that player passed to Moore (Luton), who essayed a shot. Higgins thought Betts was going to clear, but the left back purposeily let the ball go by so that the custodian might himself clear. Thus through a misunderstanding, Watford were one goal down.

But the visitors were not long before they came into a stroke of luck. The forwards appeared to find their stride, and made one or two desperate attempts to beat Jarvis. Cleaver and Macclaine experienced a little hard luck with well directed shots. Just on half time Watford swarmed round the home goal. The defence were severely pressed, and in trying to clear, Trueman put through his own goal. It was a very bad clearance indeed, and might have cost Luton dearly.

Resuming, the game was for a time of a ding-dong nature. Watford were attacking more often than their opponents; indeed for the first 20 minutes Luton's play was of a rather feeble character, though at times a decent shot was put in. Mere luck saved Higgins on one occasion to negotiate a shot from Quinn. Jarvis, too, had some luck, but nothing of a tangible character occurred, and the spectators were looking forward to a draw. Then it was that Luton went away all of a sudden, and Smith found the net with a good shot. Play had no sooner been resumed than Luton came for the Watford goal again, and Smith once more scored, but this was rather a "fluky" goal. However, Watford played gamely to the end, though there was now no possible chance of their making even a draw.

Result: Luton 4 goals, Watford 2 goals.