

The Southern League.

LUTON v. WATFORD.

Played at Luton yesterday. Result:—

Luton	4 goals.
Watford	2 goals.

Teams:—

Luton—Jarvis; Chapman and Hedley; F Hawkes, Jones, and Trueman; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moore, and Stansfield.

Watford—Higgins; Lockett and Betts; Kent, Fayers, and Griève; Fyfe, MacLaine, Cleaver, Squires, and Moore.

Referee, Mr. D. Hammond (Heywood).

An hour-and-a-half's keen football ended in Luton beating Watford yesterday by four goals to two. This was the third match in succession in which six goals were scored, and it was Luton's first victory at home. It was not won without very hard work. A quarter of an hour from the finish it seemed that the match would end in a draw. Then came a startling rally, and Smith scored twice in one minute.

Watford have never won a Southern League match at Luton. They have not performed exceptionally well this season—up to yesterday they had obtained three points in four games, whereas Luton had secured four in four matches. They have a very speedy line of forwards, who included Squires, a Red-bourn man, at inside-left. From the Reserves he won a place in the first team last year. Cleaver, MacLaine, and Fyfe were with the Club last year. Moore came from the Midlands at the beginning of this season.

Abe Jones made a welcome re-appearance in the home team. A white patch on his neck showed that the abscess had not entirely healed, but he played well, nevertheless. Moore again partnered Stansfield on the left wing—Moody will be fit to play at Leyton on Saturday—and Trueman played in a Southern League match for the first time. In the second half it was evident that both these men were suffering from want of training, but they gave a good account of themselves.

In order to attract as many spectators as possible, the kick-off was fixed for a quarter-past five. As a matter of fact, the game started eight minutes before the advertised time. The teams did not leave the field at the interval. Although the light was not good in the concluding stages, the game was finished, and the three thousand spectators were highly pleased with the well-earned victory.

As soon as the game commenced, Luton pressed hotly, and Higgins, who deputised for Biggar, was called upon twice in the first minute. He saved well from Brown, and Moore forced a corner. At the other end, MacLaine and Squires tried pot shots, but Luton soon returned to the attack, and Higgins smartly dealt with a long, low shot from Jones. A minute later, F. Hawkes passed forward, and Smith headed to Moore, but Lockett prevented him from shooting.

The first goal was scored at the end of twenty minutes' play. Hedley was at fault in not getting in his kick when the right wing men were making the running. The ball was centred, and Jarvis obtained possession, but Cleaver dashed up and robbed him. The outside-left was close at hand, and he promptly took advantage of the opportunity. It was a soft goal, but it was followed two minutes later by one for Luton.

Stansfield was the scorer, but the goal was the outcome of what was evidently intended for a centre. Lockett completely missed the ball, and it entered the net without Higgins having a chance to touch it. The succeeding play was crowded with incident. Quinn almost got through on his own. He finished an individual effort with a hard shot. Higgins put out his fist, and deflected the course of the ball. Fred Hawkes was next fouled near the penalty line, and a corner for Luton was followed by a hot assault.

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From a free kick taken by Fred Hawkes, Quinn and Smith got in clever over-head kicks, and Higgins saved from the latter. Another free kick ought to have resulted in a goal. Stansfield brought the ball in, but other forwards crowded around, and the outside-left was hampered. It was a bad miss, but Stansfield could hardly be blamed. Stansfield next took a corner, and Moore headed through in the Moody style.

Smith was prominent on two or three occasions after this, but the best chance at this stage fell to Squires, who shot over. Following a free kick taken by Betts, who is serving his third season with Watford, Mac-laine tried a hard shot. Jarvis just got to it, and the ball went off the bar for a corner. The attack was never really cleared. Trueman got his foot to a centre from the left, and had the mortification of scoring against his own side. It was very unfortunate, but accidents will happen.

As this goal was scored in the last minute of the first half, the teams crossed over on level terms. In the first few minutes Luton attacked with quite as much earnestness as they had shown at the commencement of the game. Smith attracted attention more than once, and he presented Moore with practically an open goal, but the inside-left shot over. Then Watford had a turn, and Trueman on two separate occasions prevented Fyfe from getting in his kick.

Moore, the Watford outside-left, made a good effort, but his shot went wide. Shortly afterwards, Smith received the full force of the ball on his body and fell. Mr. Hammond rushed up, and taking his coat off, attended to the home centre-forward, who was soon able to resume. A flying centre from Stansfield caused Higgins to rush out. He rolled over and dropped the ball, but recovered it, and threw it to one of his backs.

A miskick by Hedley enabled Squires to get away, but Jarvis saved with one hand. When Watford came again, Jarvis rushed out to meet a centre by Fyfe, and rolled over with Cleaver. The attack was cleared, however. Near the centre of the field Betts threw himself at the ball in order to prevent Smith from getting it. The Watford man fell on his head. Fortunately, he was not seriously hurt, but it was a very narrow escape.

The most exciting time came a quarter of an hour from the end, when Smith headed through from a centre by Brown. Immediately afterwards, Brown again centred, and Smith headed into Higgins' hands. Again Brown put in a centre, and for the second time within a minute Smith headed into the net. After this, Luton swarmed to the attack, and Brown was given plenty to do. Squires, of Watford, made a bad miss, but Quinn and Fred Hawkes came near to scoring in the last minutes of the game.

Everybody agrees that Smith has smartened up the Luton attack very considerably, and it is also satisfactory to note that Quinn is doing better at inside-right than he did at centre-forward. Yesterday he played his best game for Luton. He is becoming more generous with his passes, and is getting used to playing with Brown. Moore was very useful, and Stansfield played well, but he did not have so much as usual to do.

Fred Hawkes was the pick of the halves. In addition to accomplishing his share of the defensive work, he assisted the forwards now and again. Jones was almost up to his usual form. Trueman, as was perhaps natural, paid chief attention to dispossessing his opponents. He made a creditable first appearance in the Southern League. Hedley was not at his best, but it should be taken into account that

he and Chapman had to deal with a very
speedy set of forwards. Jarvis dealt with
some warm shots in a satisfactory manner.