

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

BY "GOALPOST."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON LOSE AT LEYTON.

No one was surprised at the result of Luton's visit to Leyton on Saturday, unless it was at the big margin by which the Essex team won. Leyton are probably one of the most improved teams in the Southern League this season, and Luton were not expected to come back with the two points. Still, one was not prepared to see Luton lose by three clear goals. Last season, Leyton, on their own ground, won 2-0, but at Luton they lost 1-2.

Moody returned to the Luton ranks; Trueman was also in the half-line; the other players were as usual. Durrant, the ex-Luton player, was amongst the home forwards, playing outside right.

Leyton set the ball rolling with an attack on their opponents' citadel; but the defence more than saved the situation—Hedley put his forwards in possession, and away they dashed. However, Buchanan came out, but was a little lucky in clearing, otherwise Whitbourne, the custodian, would have had all his work cut out to prevent Luton from scoring. Play was very fast, and there was little to choose between the sides. After Renneville had missed a splendid chance, Luton had a look in, but all that accrued was a fruitless corner. At the other end, the locals were having a tussle with the Luton backs, but Hedley and Chapman eventually cleared their lines. However, Leyton bore down once more, and nothing but erratic play prevented them from beating Jarvis. Next Stansfield broke away, but was not allowed to come within dangerous range. Once more the home side took up the running, and eventually Robertson tapped the ball into the net from a short pass from Durrant.

This success put life into Leyton, but the Blues were not downhearted in the least. True, after this they were pretty much on the defensive. The backs played a good game, but somehow they were not successful in getting their forwards away. The Leyton front string were very aggressive, and just before half-time Ryder netted, but the point was disallowed for offside.

At the interval, Leyton led by the only goal scored. Luton had still a good chance to draw, if not to win. The locals realised that fact, too, for on resuming they immediately rushed the pace. Durrant put in a great shot, but Jarvis made a grand save at full length. The Luton front string kept "sniping" at Luton's goal and Jarvis was very much in evidence. The Luton custodian, however, played a cool game, and succeeded in keeping out shot after shot. Some of them were of the most difficult character, coming in at all angles and at no angle at all. Jarvis was quite deserving of the cheer which he received when Leyton were eventually beaten off.

Luton got away, and Trueman forced the home goalkeeper to concede a corner. Though well placed, the flag kick came to nothing. Still, the visitors had quite as much of the play as their opponents. Hunt was paying special attention to Smith, and Quinn's passing was not so accurate as it might have been. There was some excitement at Luton's end. Robertson got possession, and passing to Renneville, the Leyton centre-forward had no difficulty in finding the net. It was true that Jarvis did his best to save the shot, but it proved too difficult.

In a short time, Luton found their feet again, and gave the Leyton defence an anxious time. But that was all; they could not score. Sometimes it was "hard luck," other times the effort was weak. Then Leyton made a final attempt to increase their lead. For the moment it seemed as if Luton's defence completely broke down. The halves certainly lost their heads, and the home centre forward was badly fouled within the penalty area. Buchanan took the kick, but Jarvis saved. However, the goalkeeper had not quite cleared, and had not sufficient time to recover himself before Renneville, getting possession, banged into the net, and the result was then placed beyond doubt. During the closing stages, the Blues tried hard, but it was then too late. Leyton had already obtained a substantial lead, and they could well afford to adopt the tactics of kicking out.

Result: Leyton, 3 goals; Luton, nil.