

Southern League.

WITH LUTON TOWN.

TAME DISPLAY AT LEYTON.

THREE GOALS DEFEAT.

By "Vigilant."

Saturday's game at Leyton was a very tame affair after the Watford match. Of promise there was no lack, but it hardly ever materialised. On both sides clever combination was marred by poor finishing work, and though the play was fast enough it was anything but good. There was very little to choose between the rival elevens, and a 3-0 victory was certainly more than Leyton deserved. The fact that their forwards and halves were the better set of opportunists was the only thing which entitled them to a lead at all, and even this might have been altered had Smith been himself in the second half.

Allowing for this, I should have been quite content if the final score in their favour had been 2-0, but the third goal should never have occurred. It came from a penalty, and I cannot understand how it was Hedley came to give it away. It was entirely unnecessary, and did much to mar his otherwise fine display. He was evidently greatly surprised that his action should have been construed as an offence, but it is only fair to say that the referee consulted both linesmen before making the award. Had it not been for this penalty the result would have been the same as last season.

Leyton are undoubtedly a fine side this season, and it is no disgrace to Luton that they failed to lower the colours of the Essex men. With Kenneth Hunt, the old Oxonian and Wolverhampton half-back, and Jamie Durrant, who went down with the Luton men, back in the team, Leyton were at full strength, and they were confidently expected to maintain their unbeaten record at home. Luton were, of course, without Bob Hawkes, and the only change from the eleven which beat Watford was the inclusion of Moody for Moore at inside left.

Mr. G. L. Miller, of East Dereham, had charge of the players, who lined out as follow:

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

Leyton.—Whitbourne; Longworth and Bushby; Buchanan, K. R. G. Hunt and Gray; Durrant, Robertson, Renneville, Ryder and Kirwan.

Ideal weather conditions favoured the game, and there were about 5,000 spectators present when Luton kicked-off. Fred Hawkes, who acted as captain in the absence of his namesake, did not prove a good hand in naming the coin, but there was very little in the choice of ends, the chief trouble being the brilliant sunshine. The turf seemed very springy, and the teams were a long while settling down. Luton were the first to show up. With some pretty footwork in the centre, Smith sent Stansfield off. Harold easily tricked Longworth and centred nicely. Brown met it, but his shot proved more of a centre, and Stansfield was pulled up for offside when he essayed to make use of it.

A similar fate befel Smith a moment later, but, not to be denied, the centre got going again and gave Stansfield a nice opening. This time Longworth proved the better of the two, and the movement came to nothing. A speedy run by Durrant set the home supporters applauding, but in his desire to set a hot pace he lost control of the ball, which passed harmlessly over the goalline. He did better directly afterwards, centring very neatly, and with Fred Hawkes and Hedley misjudging their kicks Renneville had a fine chance, but made a very poor attempt.

The first shot to come to hand was from the Leyton full back, Longworth, who, after Trueman had cleverly stopped Durrant, tested Jarvis with a powerful long shot. It afforded no difficulty to Jarvis, from whose clearance Smith broke away. Paying attention to the left, he got Stansfield on the move, but the old 'Spurs' shot cannoned back off Longworth. Jones returned with a lofty kick into the goal mouth, and things looked rosy for Luton, when Quinn was ruled offside. Brown then forced a corner, but it was not at all well placed, and Leyton broke up the attack. Stansfield returned, however, and from his centre Fred Hawkes had a go, but was a little bit out in his elevation.

Leyton were feeding Durrant frequently, but Trueman and Hedley kept a watchful eye on the old Lutonian. Perhaps because of this the tactics were changed, and Kirwan was given a turn. He made splendid use of the first real opportunity given him. Getting well away he cleverly tricked Chapman and got in a treat of a centre. The ball passed clean across the goal, but none of the inside men were able to reach it, and Durrant very weakly sent behind.

Just now the homesters were doing all the pressing, though they seldom got really dangerous. Gray drove in two fine shots, which were uncomfortably close, but the shooting generally left much to be desired. Renneville was the most dangerous of the forwards and was frequently in the picture. He was twice stopped in grand style by Hedley, but on the second occasion the old Leicester man could not clear, and Chapman had to give away a corner. Later, Renneville managed to give Hedley the slip and a goal seemed certain, but Jarvis came out and put him clean off, the centre man scooping the ball well over the bar. There was yet another exciting incident with which Renneville was associated. From a centre of Durrant's he got the better of a tussle with Fred Hawkes and smashed in a hot shot, which was a very near thing for Luton.

These incidents were interspersed with some conspicuously clever footwork by Smith, and a "topping" close passing movement by the wing. The latter was a gem, but Smith wanted an inch or two more to reach Stansfield's centre. Then Brown had his first chance, and he rose to the occasion splendidly. Working down the line in fine style, he centred with characteristic accuracy. Whitbourne came out to meet it, and simultaneously he was charged by Smith. The impact caused the ball to slip from his grasp, but the referee whistled for a foul. Persistently fed by Smith, Stansfield was repeatedly on the move. Longworth was usually more than a match for him, but whenever an opportunity presented itself Harold centred very cleanly. From one of these Moody headed in. It was a very tame effort, however, and gave no anxiety to the goalkeeper.

For some time the play was utterly devoid of noteworthy incidents, and it wanted seven minutes to half-time when the proceedings were enlivened by a goal. The successful movement was initiated by Durrant, whose centre was just out of the reach of Hedley. Robertson snapped up the oppor-

tunity in an instant, and with a fine shot in the corner gave Dick Jarvis absolutely no chance. The same player came within an ace of repeating the feat in the next minute, striking the crossbar with a terrific shot. Jarvis was quite at sea with it, but the rebound came awkwardly for Renneville, who skied yards over.

Quinn next led a dash by the Blues. His centre was well placed, but Stansfield, who headed in, was ruled offside. A free kick carried the play back into the visitors' territory, and the Blues had a very narrow escape. Jarvis came out to intercept the shot, but Robertson's head beat him, and it was lucky for Luton that Chapman was guarding the goal. The Bedford player let his side down a moment later with a bad kick. Fortunately Renneville passed to Ryder instead of shooting, and the inside left, who placed the ball in the net, was very properly given offside. A minute later half-time was whistled, with the score:

LEYTON		1
LUTON		0

The Blues were the first away after the restart, and, following good work by the right wing, Smith missed by inches with a smart shot. A corner resulted from a strenuous effort by Stansfield, and from this Leyton were extremely lucky to avert an equaliser. Quinn headed in a beauty, and the goal-keeper was beaten to the world, but Longworth's head flashed across in time to head aside. Still the Blues penned their opponents in, but a dashing run by Smith checked the centre forward's career of usefulness. A kick on the ankle he injured at Norwich rendered him absolutely lame, and although he pluckily continued his movements were so handicapped that he could not be of much service to his side.

Following this, Leyton pressed very persistently, and play round the Luton goal was for some time very exciting. A hot shot from Durrant brought Jarvis to the ground, and though Jamie followed instantly with a good attempt, Dick still kept the ball out. On top of these came a trimmer from Renneville, but Jarvis fell full length and snapped it up, giving to Hedley to clear. It was a wonderful series of saves, and the crowd generously recognised his splendid work.

Luton at length had a look in, Stansfield showing up with a pretty run. Hunt prevented him getting dangerous, however, and another visit to the Blues' goal saw Durrant make two unsuccessful attempts to increase the lead of his side. Jones set the left wing going again, and the combination of Moody and Stansfield was very effective. Stansfield's centre was headed out by Longworth, and Moody was given a chance, but his shot was hurried and lacked accuracy. There was a similar weak finish to a nice passing movement on the right, and the Blues also made poor use of a free kick for hands.

Smith managed to render some assistance now and then, and a swinging pass sent Brown off. Ernie had had few opportunities, and he was evidently bent on making use of this one. Tricking opponent after opponent he worked right into the centre, only to finish with a miserable shot. The Blues were not showing up well near goal, and one of the best efforts came from Trueman, a long shot being tipped over the bar with difficulty by Whitbourne.

At the other end a smart piece of work by Durrant resulted in the ball passing clear across the goal untouched, and then Jarvis unaccountably dropped a hot shot from Hunt, and had to give away a corner to save his charge. From this, Dick came out to save, and while he was away a couple of shots were sent in and very luckily saved. Durrant and Hedley were constantly having lively tussles. Once the outside right raced by his old clubmate and got to close quarters, but the angle was a difficult one for a shot, and the ball passed across to Chapman, who instantly got into touch.

Ten minutes or so before the finish Leyton delighted their supporters with a second goal. It was a beautiful effort and quite the best thing of the match. Following on a Luton attack Robertson burst away and gave Renneville a fine forward pass. The centre man snapped it up, and dashing through with great pace, let fly with the left foot as he ran, and easily beat Jarvis with a wonderful shot.

A minute later the hopes of the Blues' supporters were raised, only to be as suddenly dashed to the ground. From a centre by Brown, Longworth headed towards his own goal, and the situation was one of great anxiety for the goalkeeper, but he came out of the ordeal with flying colours.

Then, with seven minutes to go, Leyton put on a third goal. They were leisurely breaking away, and Hedley sent the ball back to Jarvis with Renneville following up. There was absolutely no danger, but Hedley set a back for the centre forward, who was brought down in the penalty area. A cry was immediately set up for a penalty, and this the referee awarded after consultation with the linesmen. Buchanan, who took the kick, shot straight at Jarvis, and, amid great excitement, Dick saved. Buchanan and another of the side followed up, but Jarvis pounced on the ball and got it away, only for Renneville to return into the net before the custodian could recover. It was distinctly hard lines on Jarvis to be beaten after such a fine effort.

In the last few minutes Stansfield twice tested Whitbourne with clever shots from the wing, but the most exciting play was witnessed at the other end. One particularly fine bout of passing led to a splendid shot from Buchanan, which Jarvis was glad enough to put over the bar. The corner bore no result, and time arrived with the score:

LEYTON		3
LUTON		0

COMMENTS ON THE PLAY AND PLAYERS.

Smith was quite the man of the moment with the Leyton crowd on Saturday. He was the subject selected for the portrait gallery in the match programme, and the sketch which accompanied the portrait told of his two brilliant goals against Watford. "That's the man to look after," sang out the crowd, and the advice was not unheeded by Kenneth Hunt and his colleagues. Jack was a marked man from the start, but this did not prevent him showing up. His dodgy runs and accurate placing to the wings made him a conspicuous figure, and it was not his fault that the Luton attack was not more thrustful. Unfortunately his usefulness was crippled immediately after the change of ends, and the effect of his lameness on the play of the Blues' front line was most marked.

For once in a way Brown was off colour. Nothing would come off for him, and he only achieved about a couple of good things during the match. By the way, Leyton people were very much amused at the identity of the Blues' outside right. Ernie lives at Leyton and is well known there, and it tickled them immensely to find him playing under this name. This may have had something to do with his inability to display his true form.

Quinn had one or two nasty shakings up in the match, and was quite as much off his game as his partner. Smith evidently noted this, judging by the persistency with which he fed the left wing. Harold Stansfield was worthy of all the attention that was paid him, for although he had a splendid back against him his centring was always dangerous. Moody was, however, not himself, and in spite of Harold's dashing work on the wing, the Blues hardly ever looked like scoring.

The halves did not harm their reputation in the slightest, Trueman thoroughly justifying the good opinion formed of him in the Watford match. It was no easy task to keep in hand such a flier as Jamie Durrant, but he stuck to it splendidly, and showed that he has more pace than many credit him with. He is in the rough yet, but he has the making of a fine footballer.

The backs were rather more faulty than usual, and in this respect I refer more particularly to Chapman, whose kicking was frequently very reckless. Sympathy should be felt for Dick Jarvis in having three goals scored against him. His work was well nigh perfect, and the most wonderful goal-keeper going could not have stopped the shots that scored.

The Leyton forwards were a speedier lot than the Blues. They derived much of their danger from the pace of the outside wingers, of whom Durrant was the more dangerous, if not so clever as Kirwan. The defence is about the best Luton have knocked up against this season. There was not the semblance of a weak spot in it, and Longworth at back gave one of the best displays I have seen this season.