

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON LOSE AT PORTSMOUTH.

Luton Town had extremely hard luck in not drawing at Portsmouth on Saturday. One did not expect the Blues to win, seeing how well Portsmouth have been going of late, and the position they stand in the League. However, Luton had quite as much, if not more, of the game as their opponents, and nothing but ill-luck prevented them sharing the points.

Portsmouth won by the odd goal in five. Last season Luton lost at the naval town, the score being 1-0 in favour of Portsmouth, but on the Ivy-road ground, the Blues romped home 5-1.

On Saturday both sides were at full strength, as will be seen from the constitution of the teams:—

Portsmouth: Cope; Thompson, A. E. Knight; Beaumont, Shufflebotham, Yates; Lang, Kirby, Bowman, McMahon, Dix.

Luton: Jarvis; Hedley, McCurdy; F. Hawkes, Jones, R. Hawkes; Brown, Quinn, Smith, Moody, Stansfield.

"Bob" won the spin of the coin, and Luton soon found their feet. Shortly after the start the Blues looked dangerous, but offside spoilt a promising effort. Stansfield and Moody together made a nippy run for the visitors, but Thompson applied the closure before the move could mature. Coming again just after, Luton appeared to have the goal at their mercy, but Knight slipped across and kicked away in the nick of time.

Portsmouth at last got going, and some clever work between McMahon and Dix ended up by Jarvis having to clear a difficult shot from Kirby. Both teams were now going well, but the Portsmouth half-backs were kicking too hard to be of much use to their forwards. Yates tried a long shot, which gave Jarvis no difficulty, and then Luton made a solid rush to the other end, where, after some unnecessary delay, Moody sent yards wide of the goal. From a big kick, Long got away, and beat two attempts to stall him off, finishing up a capital run by middling to Bowman, who put on a good goal for the home side. Luton played up well after this, but were not able to break down the home defence, and half-time found them a goal to the bad.

Resuming, Portsmouth attacked, but Hawkes intercepted Bowman's pass. Luton replied, and Stansfield shot over. Dix put in a good run, but centred poorly. Lang, on the one wing, and Dix on the other, followed with good centres, but the defence cleared them away. Stansfield was fouled, and the free kick was well taken, but Cope punched away. Bowman next put in a fine run, and Kirby finished with a high shot.

Splendid passing by Portsmouth enabled Kirby to score with a fast grounder, but immediately after Moody retaliated for Luton. A corner followed, and was excellently placed by Lang, but Bowman struck the cross-bar. Bowman and Shufflebotham followed with two grand shots. Portsmouth scored from a corner, and towards the close Moody added another for Luton. This was all the scoring in a hard game.

Result: Portsmouth 3 goals, Luton 2 goals.