

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON LOSE AT SOUTHEND.

Luton Town lost badly at Southend on Saturday. Indeed the Blues greatly disappointed their supporters. Last season the Essex team succeeded in sharing the points, winning 2-0 at home and losing 0-3 at Luton; but this season they have only allowed us to have one point out of the four. Earlier in the season they drew on the Ivy-road ground 3-3, and on Saturday they won 4-1.

Luton had one alteration on their side, Hedley turning out in place of Chapman. The home side were at full strength.

Seeing that the sides were so evenly matched at Luton, the result was expected to be a very close affair. "Bob" won the spin for Luton, whose early efforts were very disjointed, and Southend quickly took a firm hold on the game. Sugden, King, and Crews between them took the ball well into Luton's end, but the first-named forward shot straight at McCurdy, who kicked away. The home side were playing much the better game, and just here Crews provided King with an opening which he turned to account.

After this Luton improved, but their forwards could not beat down the Southend defence, Murray and Molyneux playing grandly. After Stansfield had put behind, the home side got into swing again, and bore down on the Luton defence in line. A regular mix-up followed, out of which the ball came to Sugden, who put on a goal.

With two goals lead, Southend found time to elaborate, and gave a fine display of brainy football, which almost ran the Luton halves off their feet. The third goal was scored by King, who nipped in whilst the Luton backs were hesitating. Luton failed to make any progress in this half, and when half-time went the home team were leading by 3 goals to 0.

The second half opened with a dash by the Southend front string, which Hedley sent back, and then Luton showed their best form and took the game right into the Southend territory. A long shot was fielded by Toone, but he was penalised for carrying, and Jones put the free kick into the net, but of course no point accrued therefrom. The Luton forwards had now set up a worrying game, which harassed the Southend backs considerably, but their finish was very bad, and Toone had but little to do considering the run of the mid-field work. The home side next had a turn at attacking, and Lavers missed badly with a fine middle from Crews.

Smith then made a smart run for the visitors, but Molyneux got the ball from him at the finish. Coming again, Stansfield had a good chance of reducing the lead against his side, but he sent wide with a hurried shot. Smith got an offside goal for Luton, and then the home side made a solid rush which ended in Frost adding a fourth point. Just before time the visitors got a goal, Quinn doing the trick. When the final whistle went, the result was:—

Southend, 4 goals; Luton, 1 goal.

It must be confessed that Luton were absolutely outplayed. Again, it was the back division that was chiefly to blame. The two backs made a poor show, and were not able to hold the dashing Southend forwards in check. That was the reason why Jarvis was beaten no less than four times. But Luton's forwards were also erratic. The whole quintette appeared to have left their shooting boots at home, and their combination was so faulty that they never made much impression on the Southend defence.

Luton are still in the centre of the League table, and that is where one may expect them to finish at the end of the season. That will not be a bad performance.

On their own ground on Saturday, Luton Reserves beat Southend Reserves by 3 goals to one.