

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. SOUTHAMPTON.

A PECULIAR GAME.

The match between Luton and Southampton on the Ivy-road ground on Saturday afternoon, was in some respects of a rather peculiar character. While the Saints did all the scoring—and all of it, too—in the first half, Luton made a remarkable recovery in the second moiety, and not only scored twice, but successfully prevented their opponents from again finding the net. The fact was that having obtained such a substantial lead of three goals when they changed ends, the visitors were inclined to rest a bit on their laurels, with the result that they all but lost the day. Towards the close they got a terrible fright, as the Blues appeared likely to draw level at any moment. However, time was called with Southampton leading by the odd goal in seven. But had Luton had another few minutes left they would probably have equalised.

The weather conditions were ideal, the sun shone as if it was glorious spring. However, the state of the turf was not all that could be desired, and the centre of the field was soon churned up. There were about 4,000 spectators.

It may be recalled that last season Luton won at home 1-0, but received a terrible touncing away, losing at Southampton by 6 goals to love. The Blues also lost away this season by the odd goal in five.

McCurdy is still on the injured list, and Hedley again turned out to do duty with Chapman. The Saints had also one alteration from their usual team, Jepp being at centre-half instead of Robertson.

“Bob” lost the toss, and the visitors were away first. They were held in check for a minute or two, and then Carter dashed through and scored with a shot which Jarvis seemed to make no effort to get at. There was a bit of luck about this point, but just afterwards Jefferies had a great chance of adding to the score, and missed. Luton gave away a corner, which was cleared, and then, getting to the other end, forced a corner in turn.

Play favoured the visitors, but Jarvis was not to be caught unprepared again, and he saved several shots in splendid style. Luton returned to the attack, and looked like equalising, but the Southampton backs presented a stout front, and the halves placed the ball well forward. A bad blunder by the Luton backs gave McGibbon a chance, and that player scored the second goal with the greatest of ease.

Luton again attacked, and Burrows was as nearly as possible beaten by Moody. A grand centre by Brown gave Quinn a chance, but the latter's shot went just over. The Saints, who had been going quietly for a time, got off again, a fine passing run ending in McGibbon scoring with a shot that gave Jarvis no chance.

The Luton forwards, who seemed to play better after each reverse, made a spirited reply, and after excellent work by Smith, Quinn scored. Luton played well after this success, but the Saints' defence again turned the attack, and a fine run saw McGibbon put the visitors further ahead. Half-time arrived shortly after with Southampton enjoying the substantial lead of 4 goals to 1.

The second half opened in favour of Southampton, and Hedley had to kick away a centre by Blake. Luton then got away, and Smith was close in before Glover nipped the ball away from him. The game was now pretty even, but the Luton forwards were a bit more dangerous at this stage, when near goal. Burrows saved twice well, and then Luton got a second goal, Moody rushing the ball into the net.

Keeping up the attack, Luton had hard lines when a shot by Smith just grazed the upright, and went outside. Carter and Blake attempted to take the game to the other end, but were sent back, and from a forward pass Smith beat Burrows, but was at once ruled offside. Both sides raised the pace considerably now, and the backs were constantly tackling. Luton were now having the best of things, and Smith again sent in a capital shot just a trifle wide of the post. It was all Luton now, and just before time Stansfield scored again. Nothing further happened, though the last minutes were full of exciting play.

Result: Southampton 4 goals, Luton 3 goals.

It was a big scoring game. But the fact is it was the defence that gave Luton away. The mistakes which Chapman made were entirely responsible for Luton's defeat. Twice he should have easily cleared, but failed to do so, and on both occasions it must have been galling to the home forwards to see Jarvis beaten. Hedley was also shaky, and thus it was not surprising that Luton should have lost, but that they should have done so well. The forwards, however, had their shooting boots on, and could the backs have been depended upon, the result would have been quite the reverse. But it is no good complaining. Until the Town have a decent defence, they must largely depend on luck for their successes.

Luton, however, have got a good record this season so far as their home matches are concerned. Saturday's was the second loss on the Ivy-road enclosure this season. The Crystal Palace were the other victors.
