

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. NORTHAMPTON.

THE "BLUES" BADLY DEFEATED.

The wretched weather spoiled a good match as well as a good gate on Saturday. The Luton directors were anxiously looking forward to a big attendance on the occasion of Northampton's visit to Strawopolis. However, though the "Cobblers" brought 500 supporters with them, the "gate" did not comprise more than 3,000.

The result was a win for Northampton by 3 clear goals. Though one will admit that the visitors were slightly the better side, Luton had hard luck in losing both points. At Northampton earlier in the season Luton were defeated by 6-1, but no one expected a repetition of that disaster. Last season, it may be recalled, Luton shared the points with Northampton, winning at home 3-1, and losing away 0-3.

On Saturday the ground was a perfect quagmire and anything like good play seemed out of the question; but for all that it was one of the most spirited games we have had at Luton this season. From start to finish play never lacked interest, and there were plenty of exciting moments.

Though the visiting captain won the toss, he decided to play against wind and rain. Smith kicked off, and the home side were the first to attack, good runs by Brown and Stansfield looking dangerous, though one very fine movement was spoilt by offside. Northampton then had a turn, Whittaker carrying the ball up nicely, and Jarvis was tested. The Luton goalkeeper made a wonderful save at close quarters from Freeman, and after that play was particularly fast and interesting, both sides working well.

Excellent individual work made the game pleasant to watch, while the combination was also very good, only the stout defence on either side preventing a harvest of goals. Luton were more aggressive, but the Northampton forwards shot much better when they got away. Jarvis saved repeatedly, but was at length beaten by Lewis. Nothing more was done before the interval, when Northampton crossed over leading by 1 goal to 0.

Resuming, offside spoilt an attack by the visitors. Then Luton got away, Bonthron relieving. Each side attacked in turn, and then Manning hit the bar with a long shot. The visitors were generally superior to Luton, although once Stansfield sent behind when he had a fine chance of threatening danger.

Twice Lewis spoilt chances by getting offside. Then Luton attacked smartly twice, but Thorpe luckily saved after the ball had hit the post. Thorpe saved from Quinn, and Northampton pressed on the right wing. Bob Hawkes relieved. Brown put in smart work, and Thorpe saved from Quinn. Freeman and Lewis scored for Northampton, and Jones missed a penalty kick for Luton.

Result: Northampton 3 goals, Luton nil.

Thorpe did well in saving the penalty kick, but Jones shot right at the custodian. The "Cobblers" were extremely fortunate in not having a goal scored against them. In the second half it was a miracle how time after time the citadel escaped disaster. Jarvis's charge had also many exciting moments. In fact, one might describe the outstanding feature of the game as good goalkeeping on both sides.

In attack and defence Luton were somewhat inferior to their opponents. For instance, Northampton's forwards were as a rule dangerous whenever they got within shooting range. Luton's front line either dallied too much or one of them got offside. The home backs were also much weaker than their vis-a-vis. As a matter of fact Chapman literally presented Lewis with his first goal. The last point which Lewis obtained was a bit of luck, the result of a re-bound.

Luton have now dropped to the 13th position in the League table, but they are quite safe to be well away from the bottom at the end of the season. The two goals which he scored on Saturday places Lewis top scorer in the S.L., with 23 goals to his credit. Shinton, the old Leicester Fosse man, is at present top scorer in England.

At Fulham on Saturday, Luton Reserves received a severe beating, losing to Fulham Reserves by 6-0.

In the "Wix" Trophy competition, Dunstable-road (Luton) played Hitchin St. Mary's at Hitchin on Saturday. The Luton boys played a superior game to their opponents, and won by 2-0.