

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON v. QUEEN'S PARK RANGERS.

LUTON SEVERELY BEATEN AT PARK ROYAL.

Though one did not expect Luton to win at Park Royal on Saturday, still one was not prepared for a defeat of four goals to love. We know the Rangers have gone "great guns" again this season, but at Strawopolis they only drew 1-1, and Luton certainly had a chance of effecting the same result on Saturday. Luton had their full team in the field, but the Rangers had to re-arrange their side. Play was very fast from beginning to end, and Luton were unlucky in not managing to beat Shaw even once.

Luton were set to face a fairly stiff breeze. Stansfield opened the attack, but his effort went wide. The locals worked the leather to the other end, and Whyman gave Jarvis a hot grounder, which he fielded in good style. Some good work between Stansfield and Moody gave the latter a chance, but Macdonald cleared. After Luton had taken a fruitless corner, Smith got right through, his shot hit the post, and rebounded into play. Quinn met the ball, but his shot hit the goalkeeper and the ball returned to the former, who shot wide. From another corner Moody headed into goal, where Shaw brought off a neat save. The Rangers next asserted themselves, and some pretty passing between their forwards left Travers in possession, but his shot landed on top of the net. They came again, and Barnes scored from the extreme wing.

Shaw next saved a long shot from Brown. After half an hour's play, Steer scored the second goal for the Rangers, the ball having been passed to him by Whyman. Luton were exceedingly unlucky, as, so far, they had done much more pressing than their opponents. Long shots by R. Hawkes and Quinn sailed just over the bar. A mis-kick by Chapman gave Whyman a chance, but the former recovered and kicked away.

At the other end Smith nearly scored, the ball being luckily saved by Shaw. The Rangers forced two corners, from the second of which Jarvis saved well. Stansfield put in a good shot from the wing, which went wide. Then Travers got right through, and, with only the goalkeeper to beat, sent the ball very wide. At the interval the Rangers led by 2 goals to 0.

Resuming, the Rangers pressed, and Barnes hit the post. Luton retaliated, and Brown put in a lovely centre, which went begging. The Luton goal had a lucky escape when Jarvis muffed a shot, and Steer nearly turned the ball into the net. At the other end Shaw brought off a fine clearance from Moody. After even play, Travers put in two shots which went just wide. A corner to Luton was barren. Bob Hawkes was very conspicuous for the visitors, and was often instrumental in stopping the rushes of the Rangers' forwards, whilst Hartwell and Morris played well for the Rangers.

After the home team had taken a fruitless corner, Luton got down, and Moody put in a fast grounder, which brought Shaw to his knees. About half an hour from the interval the ball was passed from the right to Steer, who scored the third goal for the Rangers with a fast grounder from 15 yards' range. Luton strove hard to reduce the lead, but they were unable to pass the home defence. Shaw was little troubled, with the exception of a good shot from Brown, which he caught and kicked away.

The closing stages were in favour of the Rangers, and Jarvis was kept busy with shots from Travers and Steer. From a corner-kick Barnes scored the fourth goal a few minutes from time. From the kick-off Luton visited the other end, and Shaw was obliged to leave his goal to save from Moody.

Result: Queen's Park Rangers 4, Luton 0.

As we have said, Queen's Park had a deal of "fat." In the first moiety Luton had by far the better of the game, and instead of being behind they ought to have been in front. In the second half it was the Luton defence that did the mischief. However, the Blues played pluckily to almost the end. It was when they saw that fortune was against them, that the Luton forwards threw up the sponge.

Luton have now dropped to fifteenth position from the top of the League. They are already in the danger zone, and must obtain a few more points to make their position secure. They are hardly likely to do much on Good Friday against Coventry City, but there are one or two "snips" ahead.