

FOOTBALL NOTES and NEWS

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON LOSE THEIR LAST MATCH.

HARDEST LUCK OF THE SEASON.

Playing against Portsmouth in their last match of the season, on the Ivy-road ground, Luton lost by the only goal scored. A match like it has probably never been seen on the Luton enclosure. Never before perhaps has a goal been peppered from start to finish, like Portsmouth's goal on Saturday, without ever once falling. That was Luton's experience in the "finishing up" match.

"Bob" stood down again on Saturday in favour of Johnson. Our old friend Haycock was included in the visiting team. Portsmouth were set to face a strong wind, but they took up the running from the kick-off, and success came in less than three minutes. Chapman conceded a corner. This was fruitless, and then Portsmouth retaliated, and a good run and centre by Birtles gave Kirby a chance to open the score. Jarvis misjudged the ball and ran out, leaving the goal vacant, so that "Pompey's" centre-forward had no difficulty in finding the net.

A smart run by Luton followed, and Smith should have equalised—but Warner stopped him. Cope had several shots to stop, of which one from Quinn was the best. A fine attack on the part of Portsmouth followed, and Williams tried a fine shot from the wing, which Jarvis had some difficulty in clearing.

The visitors next forced two abortive corners, and continued to have the best of matters for some time, but they were unable to penetrate the home defence. At last Luton broke away, and Moody tried a shot which went wide. Luton improved, and the Portsmouth goal was subjected to a severe bombardment, but Cope was equal to the occasion. Half-time arrived with the score 1-0 in favour of Portsmouth.

The second half opened with strong work by Luton, but Warner kicked away before his goalkeeper was troubled. Kirby then got away, but shot tamely at the finish. The home side then went down, and after Moody had put in an unsuccessful shot, Fred Hawkes sent over the bar. The home side kept up the pressure for a time, and here obtained a corner, but failed to turn it to account. Portsmouth then made a couple of minor attacks, but on each occasion Jarvis kicked away.

Both sides were keeping up the pressure pretty well, and end to end play was the order. Cope had a hot shot from Stansfield to save, and Thomson headed out when Brown sent in a nice attempt. Luton were now the better side. They went through several times in a masterly style, but bad luck and poor shooting spoilt their chances.

The home side here made desperate attempts to equalise, but Thomson and Warner were not to be beaten. Kirby had to leave the field for a few minutes owing to an injured arm. Stansfield here made a fine dash down the line, but his centre was kicked away by Warner. Coming again, Moody and Smith got the visiting defence into difficulties, but offside spoilt the attackers' chances.

Result: Portsmouth 1, Luton 0.

The first half was fairly even, though from the point of view of attack Luton should have had a substantial lead. But in the second moiety there was really only one team in it, and that was Luton. Portsmouth's goal was being desperately assaulted. Shot after shot was banged in, but still the visiting citadel did not fall. In 99 times out of 100, of the shots that Luton put in, at least half-a-dozen would have taken effect. No team had ever greater luck than had "Pompey" on Saturday. True, a great deal—perhaps the greatest—of their good fortune was due to the goalkeeping of Cope. The custodian gave a really marvellous exhibition between the posts. His judgment at all times seemed to be superb, but he was now and then a trifle lucky.

So this season, Luton has lost the four points to Portsmouth. They lost away 2-3, and now at home 0-1. Last season the points were divided, Luton winning at home 5-1, and losing away 0-1.