

Football Notes and News.

BY "THE GOALIE."

LUTON STILL LEADING.

GREAT GAME AT PARK ROYAL.

Luton had a very stiff hurdle to negotiate in the Southern League race on Saturday, and did extremely well in coming home with a point. With West Ham losing to Norwich, this was just sufficient to enable Luton to retain their position at the top of the League, but they are very closely challenged by Swindon and Brighton, who are only a point behind, while West Ham, who are the visitors next week, are only two points behind.

The three goals scored on Saturday take Luton's total to twenty, which is six more than any other club in the three Leagues. The "against" column, however, is not so bright, for the defence has been beaten ten times, in spite of the wonderful form shown by Tom Naisby. Of the twenty goals scored, Bert Moody has scored eight, and ties with Rider, of Leyton, for first place in the list of Southern League goal-scorers.

A remarkable coincidence on Saturday was the fact that both Bushell and Quinn, who have been absent recently through injuries, scored goals, and, in addition, they played an excellent game throughout, the former being particularly noticeable for the way he attended Steer, and his faultless passing. The best man on the field, however, was Luton's goalie, and it is evident that he has recovered the splendid form which he used to show for Reading in years gone by.

Luton were not quite at full strength, Johnson deputising for Bob Hawkes, who on Friday became the father of a daughter, and the Rangers also made one change, in the forward line. The game was "the best and fastest of the season" as one of the London dailies puts it, and was fought out at a fast pace. The home team had much the better of the opening moiety, and for the first fifteen minutes, gave the Luton defence little rest. Naisby, however, proved a tower of strength, but at last a fast grounder from Steer found the net.

Luton always play at their best when in arrears, and a characteristic run and centre by Brown transferred the ball to Moody. "Bert" was too well covered to shoot, so he passed back to Bushell, who beat Shaw with a lovely "first-timer," from about 25 yards' range. The Rangers soon regained the lead, however, Browning scoring from a centre by Barnes. It was not until the last minute of the second half that Luton's second goal came. Moody secured the ball from a centre by Stansfield, and before the goalkeeper, who had rushed out to clear, could get back, Bert had the ball in the net.

During the first half, the Rangers had done most of the attacking, but in the second, Luton completely turned the tables, as they usually do, and fairly bombarded the home goal. In spite of this, the Rangers scored first, McNaught shooting into an open goal. Two minutes later, Smith headed a brilliant goal from a centre by Quinn, but the referee disallowed it as offside. Nothing daunted, the Blues set up attack upon attack, and Queen's Park Rangers are another team who have cause to remember Luton's skill and determination in the last few minutes, for in the very last minute, Quinn blazed in a terrific shot, that Shaw could only just touch, but not hold. Thus Luton equalised in rather dramatic fashion and amid great enthusiasm. Result:—

LUTON 3, QUEEN'S PARK 3.