

Football Notes and News.

By "THE GOALIE."

ANOTHER LAST-MINUTE GOAL

ROBS LUTON OF A POINT.

Luton have lost three games this season, and in each case a goal in the last minute has decided the issue. Had these goals been scored earlier, there is no doubt that the dash and determination which the team always displays when in arrears would have pulled the game out of the fire, and Luton would still have been undefeated. It was particularly tantalising to lose the game at Portsmouth on Saturday, as Luton have never yet brought a point home from that place. On the other hand, Portsmouth also finds it hard to pick up points at Luton.

By scoring five goals against New Brompton, the wonderful Swindon quintette made their total of goals scored this season up to 25, which is one more than Luton's total. So that is a record lost! Moody, however, is still top of the Southern League goal scorers with 9 goals to his credit, and the only player in the other principal leagues to beat him is Hibbert, of Bury, who has scored 10 goals. It is also worth noting that though Luton are fifth on the League table, only two teams have had more goals scored against them. This, however, will probably soon be remedied, as the defence seems to improve with every game.

In the first half on Saturday, Luton acted chiefly on the defensive, and Naisby had plenty of work to do. He acquitted himself well, however, and it was not until just before the interval that Turner, who was playing for Portsmouth for the first time, scored from a lightning centre from Noble. Even then, Noble seemed to be offside, but the referee let the point stand. For the greater part of the second half Luton were continually attacking, and Smith equalised after twelve minutes play. Everyone was expecting a draw, which would have been a fair result, when a final rush by the Pompey forwards saw Turner beat Naisby for the second time. Thus were Luton defeated but not disgraced.

Report speaks well of the defence. Naisby we all know to be a great goalkeeper, and Potts and Chapman are rapidly improving by experience and should make before long a really good pair of backs. Fred Hawkes played his usual excellent game. His consistency is wonderful, for he never seems to have a "day off" and rarely makes a mistake. The forwards were hardly up to their usual standard, and Brown in particular seemed to be unable to get in those accurate centres which are generally such a feature of his play. As he was injured in the first half, perhaps this accounts for the disappointment.

Our old friends from Northampton are the visitors on Saturday, and as they beat West Ham by 2-0, the "Blues" will have to be on their mettle if they are going to win. Though Luton's method of reserving themselves for the second half has been successful on occasion, it hardly seems wise to rely too much on this, and an early goal would probably mean a decisive victory. It is this early slackness which puts such a strain on the defence, and may cause them to break down altogether.

After the Northampton match Luton have to visit Brighton, Swindon, and Crystal Palace, who are first, second and third on the table respectively; and we shall probably be unable to improve our position until after Christmas, when the matches will be more easy. After the Brighton match Luton play their first Cup Tie, and it is to be hoped that their proverbial ill-luck in this competition will not be once more in evidence.