

WEDNESDAY'S FOOTBALL.

English Cup Competition.

LUTON BEAT ROCHDALE.

NUMEROUS "INCIDENTS."

Luton won the right to enter the competition proper of the English Cup contest on Wednesday by defeating Rochdale by 3-2. It was a remarkable game, and although there was not much really good football—the heavy ground prevented that—the match was full of incident from start to finish. There were two unsatisfactory features of the game, the foul tactics of the visitors, and the weak refereeing. There were more free kicks given than in any other match in which Luton have participated this season.

Luton thoroughly deserved their win, as they possessed just that extra amount of finish which spells victory. The two best forwards on the field were the Rochdale wingers, Smith and Manning. Both goalkeepers proved themselves capable custodians, but the hardest working player on the field was Bushell, and both Bob and Fred Hawkes were in form. Smith did some good work, but he spoilt many chances by getting offside. Quinn proved himself an opportunist by scoring two exceedingly clever goals. Stansfield and Brown put in some clever centres, but, on the whole, Ernie had a "day off." Luton's team was as usual, except that Ashton deputised for Potts.

In the first round of the Competition Proper, Luton have to visit Northampton. These two teams have always been great rivals, but have never met in the Cup competition. Northampton have already beaten Luton on their own ground by 3-1, but the "Strawplaiters" were not at their best, as two of the forwards were crocked. Three times this season have Luton been drawn away from home, and I should advise Billy Lawson to inquire which of the players has broken a looking glass or spilt the salt.

The first incident of the game was a foul on Moody in the first minute, and a centre from Fred Hawkes which was headed over the bar by Moody. Quinn next tried a long shot from an impossible angle. Rochdale had a turn of attacking, and Grierson sent in a splendid shot which Naisby cleared. Exciting play in the Rochdale goal-mouth followed, and several shots were sent in. A good run by Manning produced a corner, which that player sent behind. Bushell was hurt, but resumed.

A good centre from Brown put the Rochdale goal in danger, and Biggar had to first out. Stansfield centred from a throw-in, and Quinn rushing up headed into the net, the ball hitting the post on the way. Smith gave Moody a clever pass, and Bert grazed the cross-bar with Biggar beaten. Bushell was pulled up for heavy charging and the ball was sent behind. Play was temporarily suspended by Fred Hawkes being injured.

Following a free kick given against Moody, Grierson sent wide, and a minute later Smith was similarly penalised. A good run by Brown was spoilt by offside. Naisby made a grand save right from Grierson's head and Grierson sent in a hot shot which Naisby only just cleared. Just before the interval Kenyon broke through and equalised. Brown went away from the kick off and centred, Moody, Blackett and Biggar went for the ball, and the Luton player capturing it passed to Smith, who scored. Immediately afterwards Quinn scored a third with a grand shot. Half-time arrived with Luton leading by 3-1.

In the first minute after resuming, Chapman fouled Kenyon in the penalty area, and Smith scored for Rochdale. Brown forced a fruitless corner, and Smith twice was given offside. After Kenyon had tested Naisby, Smith shot just over. Moody was fouled, and from the free-kick Quinn forced a corner. Stansfield did likewise, but both were cleared. A third corner taken by Brown was also cleared. Fouls were frequent on the part of the Yorkshiremen and from one Smith was slightly injured.

Moody forced Biggar to fist out, and Blackett gave away a corner which was cleared. A good run and centre by Brown gave Moody a chance, but Bert lost control of the ball. Rochdale twice frittered away chances. Smith shot into the net from an offside position, and Moody made two good attempts. A good run by Stansfield led to an exciting tussle in Biggar's vicinity, but the goalkeeper cleared.

Moody next tried a long shot, but play developed into the "kick-and rush" variety. A good shot by Brown found Biggar in the right spot, fortunately for Rochdale, and Quinn almost found the net with a capital drive. Rochdale made a desperate effort to equalise in the closing minutes of the game, but the Luton defence held out.

Result: LUTON 3, ROCHDALE 2