

WATFORD v. LUTON.

BEATEN IN THE LAST MINUTE.

About a thousand supporters accompanied the team to Watford on Boxing Day (Monday). Unfortunately, Luton could not put a full team in the field. Jarvis deputised for Naisby, who is unable to fist a ball owing to an injury to his hand, and Smith's injury let in Lashbrooke at inside-left, Moody going centre. Potts played in Chapman's place, and Johnson instead of Bob Hawkes. The crowd numbered about seven thousand, and was not quite up to the average holiday "gate" at Watford.

Even Watford people will admit that the better team lost. Right through the game Luton were the more dangerous, but in the last minute, when everybody expected a draw, Watford took advantage of a temporary lapse by the visitors' defence and scored. The Luton defence played a grand game, both Potts and Wightman kicking and tackling splendidly. The best man on the field, however, was Bushell, and that in spite of an injury.

Fred Hawkes won the toss, and Watford kicked off with a ball presented to the club by a Watford firm. The first incident of note was a breakaway by Maclaine, who spoilt his opportunity by shooting weakly behind. Luton, on the whole, had the better of the game, which was rather tame. A injury to Lashbrooke's head necessitated the attentions of Billy Lawson. On re-starting Watford pressed but the Luton backs kicked well. From a centre from Tattersall it seemed as if Watford must score, but Jarvis turned White's shot over the bar.

During a scrimmage in the Watford goal-mouth, Lashbrooke sent in a shot which the back similarly cleared. A hard straight shot from Maclaine hit Potts and the ball was got away. A free-kick for a needless foul by Johnson threatened danger, but the ball went behind. Watford had been having the best of matters, a dash by Luton being spoilt by offside against Quinn. Lashbrooke went outside with Stansfield inside, and Harold nearly scored from a centre by Brown which fell near the post. Wightman was loudly cheered for a good clearance which set Moody going.

Bert was travelling nicely for goal when he was brought down and the goalkeeper had considerable difficulty in saving Fred Hawkes' shot. A dash by the Watford forwards saw Jarvis save in the nick of time. Moody got away from the goal kick, and passed to Stansfield, who almost scored with a grand "header." Lashbrooke was put in possession by Stansfield, and Webster had to make three attempts before he could clear. Half-time arrived with the score sheet blank, a fair criterion of the run of play, although Luton had had more scoring chances.

A minute after the restart Jarvis dropped a shot from White. Immediately the home forwards swarmed round the goalkeeper, but the referee's whistle saved the situation. He showed himself to better advantage, however, a moment later, saving his charge in fine style from close in. Potts was in fine form and cleared once or twice magnificently. The Luton forwards combined splendidly, and Brown centred into the goalkeeper's hands. The Watford quintette were too prone to shoot from long range and Jarvis had no difficulty in clearing the few shots that reached him.

From a throw-in Lashbrooke centred grandly to Quinn, who just missed the post with an overhead shot. A centre by Brown gave Moody a chance, but Bert's "header" went behind. Luton still pressed and the Watford back seemed to use his hands in clearing. A breakaway by Watford was stopped by Potts, and Johnson also cleared in the proximity of the goal. The game was now very fast, the w

ball travelling from goal to goal with remarkable rapidity. Moody once seemed certain to score, but he was brought down when near goal in a questionable manner.

Moody gained a corner which was cleared. Some smart passing by Brown and Quinn ended in the latter being given offside. The rushing tactics of the visitors caused the Watford backs to kick out. Quinn breaking away, passed to Lashbrooke, but to everybody's surprise he shot wide from about three yards' range. Three free kicks were given against Watford, but all were cleared. Almost in the last minute, White sent in a shot which beat Jarvis and found the net. Luton had no time to set about equalising, and were thus unluckily beaten on the post by 1-0.