

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON'S FIRST NO GOAL GAME.

POINT GAINED AT SOUTHAMPTON.

The holiday matches were responsible for many changes in both sides at Southampton. On the whole Luton suffered the less, and only three regular players were away. Still Naisby, Potts and Smith are three men who make a big difference. The Saints' team were almost unrecognisable from the names on the card, and it was stated that only five regular first teamers were playing, but as far as could be ascertained, with the exception of goal and in attack, the other positions were filled with representative players. At the start of the season Burrows was looked upon as first choice for goal, but he had to give way to A. C. Brown, an amateur from Portsmouth. He has been playing well for some time, but on Saturday he was not available, and the post was given to Goodchild, who has played several fine games with the second string. As Robertson was injured Glover came back into the side at full back, but he has usually figured against Luton, so he cannot exactly be described as a reserve. The halves were the regular trio at present, although Monk had not previously played against Luton.

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But the forward line did present a curious combination as it appeared on the programme, for only Blake was advertised in his usual position. Indeed, Jefferies was the only other forward known to fame, and he was put down for outside right. However, a last minute change sent him back to his proper place at inside right, and another reserve came out on the wing. The centre-forward at the commencement was Jepp, who is really a half-back, and has played there against Luton, but the other two members of the line were quite unknown. The full list of players as they turned out was as under:—

Luton:—Jarvis; Chapman and Wightman; F. Hawkes, Bushell and R. Hawkes; Brown, Quinn, Johnson, Moody and Stansfield.

Southampton—Goodchild; Eastham and Glover; Johnston, Monk and Trueman; Smith, Jefferies, Jepp, Wheeler and Blake.

Referee, Mr. F. R. Viveash, London.

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Bob Hawkes won the toss and Jepp started the game before a very small crowd. The people were coming in fairly sharp at this time, but at no time were there 5,000 spectators present. The home forwards opened as if they intended to carry everything before them, and just a little luck hereabouts might have brought about a very different result to that ultimately obtained. Blake came clean through on the left, and dropped across a fine centre, which Jepp headed into goal, Jarvis bringing off a difficult save just under the bar. But the relief was only temporary, and twice Jarvis was brought to his knees to prevent the ball going through. On the second occasion Luton had a lucky escape for Jarvis lost the ball, and, with a couple of the Southampton forwards but a couple of yards away it appeared certain a goal must come, but Wightman somehow got to the ball and turned it round the post for a corner kick.

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The game continued to go in favour of Southampton for some minutes, and Smith was proving a very fair substitute on the right wing, being well fed by Jefferies, but gradually the Luton defence steadied themselves, and the exchanges became more even. Indeed the fine work of the Luton halves enabled Brown and Quinn to carry the ball towards the Saints' goal, and Brown got across several of his best middles, but none of them were accepted, although twice both Moody and Johnson were within an ace of meeting the ball as it flew across the mouth of goal. Matters did look promising when Quinn was observed to be forcing his way through well in the centre until he was brought down quite a couple of yards inside the penalty area. Naturally a penalty kick was expected, but to the surprise of both the Luton and Southampton officials the ball was placed just outside the fatal line. There is no doubt whatever as to the position Quinn was in. The only argument was as to whether it was a deliberate foul or an accident. But as the referee gave the foul he apparently was quite satisfied on that point.

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Luton were now having much the better of the game, and Brown was proving altogether too good for Glover. His centres were always dangerous, particularly one from the goal line within a few yards of the corner flag, but somehow it just missed Johnson and Stansfield in his attempt to place it back in front of goal only moved it two or three yards, and Eastham easily cleared. Again Brown drove the ball square across to Stansfield, who this time returned it hard into goal, only to see Goodchild turn the ball over the bar. But this time Stansfield was given offside, so that it would not have counted anyhow. The most exciting incident afterwards before half-time was a sudden attack on the part of Southampton. Jarvis ran out to clear the ball, which had been punted up the field, but he simply kicked it hard to Jepp, and it rebounded towards the goal. No Lutonian was within ten yards to prevent it going through, but fortunately it passed over the line a yard or so wide of the upright. Nothing could have stopped a goal otherwise. As it was the interval came with the score:—

Luton 0, Southampton 0.

Luton went away on the restart, and twice Sansfield forced the play, Goodchild bringing off a clever save the second time after falling down. Johnson tried an individual dash down the centre, but his final effort lacked sting and was turned round the post for a corner. The defenders on both sides were playing strongly, and it was seldom the inside men were allowed to settle down. After a spell of Luton attacking the ball came out of the ruck and Monk, who, by the way, had changed places with Jepp and was now playing at centre-forward, keeping well up the field was allowed to go on with no one but Jarvis in front of him. It was a terrible blunder on the part of the referee and might have brought disaster to Luton, for it appeared a goal must be scored. But Jarvis dropped down to the shot and prevented the ball going over the line. Monk, running on, also fell on top of Jarvis, and it was a struggle between them for the ball. Jarvis was hit on the arm rather badly, and the game had to be stopped for several minutes for him to receive attention from Lawson. But he did not leave the field. Indeed, he made one grand save when Monk, again getting clear, looked all over a scorer. This time Jarvis tipped the ball over the bar for a corner, which came to nothing.

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Johnson got a chance from a centre by Brown just over the half-way line, and after tricking the two backs he ran on, but his final effort was too high, the ball passing well over the bar. During the final quarter of an hour Luton worked hard for a goal, and several times came very near to getting one. Particularly was this the case with one dropping attempt from Brown, which was about a yard too high for either Moody or Johnson to reach. It appeared to be dropping just inside the further upright well away from Goodchild, who was watching Johnson, but the ball was about a couple of yards too far over and just missed the goal, going over the line for a goal kick. Luton attacked right up to the

finish, and when the whistle went for time Brown was in the act of taking a corner kick, which was so well placed that Goodchild caught the ball in the middle of the goal without moving a step.

Result:—

Luton 0, Southampton 0.

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Jarvis, if not quite so clean in his methods of clearing as Naisby, nevertheless kept a fine goal, and can look back on his three games of 1st week with credit. Only two goals have passed him, and he was unfortunate in both cases. The backs again did well, although Wightman appears more at home on the right. Still, his weight comes in very useful either side. Chief honours for securing a welcome League point must be given to the halves, all of whom did splendidly, Bob in particular keeping Jefferies in check, and consequently preventing the cleverest member of the Saints' attack from doing any serious mischief. F. Hawkes knows from experience that Blake is one of the most dangerous wingers of the League, and he never allowed him much rope. The forwards were a trifle uneven, with Brown and Moody the best of the bunch.

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Southampton's star player was Eastham, and he played a strong game, without that roughness which at one time spoilt his work. Trueman worked as hard as ever, but seeing he is looked upon as a fixture at left half in the Southern League representative team this was to be expected. The chief weakness of the side was forward, and as a line they were very poor, Smith after a promising opening falling away.