

Football Notes and News.

By "THE GOALIE."

LUTON'S RETURN TO FORM.

As was generally expected, Luton had no difficulty in beating New Brompton on Saturday, the score being three to nil in their favour. This victory enabled Luton to jump three places on the Southern League table, and they now occupy the ninth position. The forwards have now scored 41 goals, a total only passed by four other teams, each of whom have played more games than Luton. The defence, too, on Saturday, was very safe, and Naisby has been beaten during the last five League matches on only three occasions. These five matches have produced eight points, and the creditable goal average of 10-3. If Luton can only maintain this form they should rise still higher in the table.

It was Stansfield's match on Saturday. All through he showed excellent form, beating the back on many occasions and sending across centres which spelt danger. He capped all this, too, by scoring the best goal of the match; in fact, it was the best goal that has been scored on the Ivy-road ground for a long time. He secured the ball near the touch line, and raced right through the opposing defence and past his own colleagues until he was right in front of the goalkeeper, who had no earthly chance of saving the final shot. Just previously Smith had put the finishing touch to a shot from Quinn, who scored the third goal near the close with a great shot. All the scoring took place in the second half, many chances being missed in the opening moiety.

Smith has scored four times in the last three matches, and has now eleven points to his credit. Moody is still well ahead, however, with fourteen. Brown also played a good game on Saturday, and some of his runs and centres ought to have been improved upon by the inside forwards. The half-backs did their work well, and the backs seem to improve in kicking and tackling with every game they play. Naisby was very safe in goal, and made two exceptionally fine saves. There is another individual who deserves mention, and that is the referee. If this official makes a mistake, he soon hears about it, but however well he performs his duties, he rarely gets any praise.

Mr. C. C. Fallowfield kept a remarkably close hold of the game, and is one of the best officials we have seen at Luton. The game, on the whole, was a fairly good one. The visitors' forwards, however, showed a remarkable aptitude for getting offside. Almost every time they got away they were pulled up for this offence, to the sarcastic remarks of the five thousand odd spectators. Perhaps Wightman and Potts, who seem to be well up in tactics, can give the reason for this. One of them always keeps well up the field, and this not only causes the opposing forwards to get offside very often, but when one back is beaten, the other can rush across to his assistance.

The ground was fairly firm and the weather ideal for football. Bob Hawkes won the toss, but the home team did not derive much benefit from this, as there was practically no wind. Very early in the game Bushell just missed the upright with a splendid drive. An excellent run by Brown, initiated by Quinn, ended in a centre which placed the visitors' goal in jeopardy. Bushell terminated another promising attack by shooting high over the bar, and Moody experienced very hard luck in heading over. Both Potts and Wightman cleared well, and Bob Hawkes was also prominent. The visitors' goal had a wonderful escape, the ball striking the back when a goal seemed certain. A centre from Westwood passed right across the Luton goal, but fortunately there was nobody up to take it.

The first corner kick was placed behind by Brown, and at the other end the ball was placed by Westwood right in front of Naisby, who managed to clear. Stansfield gained possession and centred right from the goal-line. Smith met the ball and seemed certain to score, but the goalkeeper turned the ball outside for a corner. At the other end, Naisby made an equally sensational save from Satterthwaite, picking the ball right off the forward's foot. New Brompton were now having a turn of attacking, and were twice given offside. Naisby made an excellent save, and was slightly hurt while doing so, but immediately resumed. A long drive from Wightman seemed likely to score, but one of the backs headed away.

New Brompton then rushed to the other end and gained a fruitless corner. Fred Hawkes tried a shot which went about a yard wide of the top corner of the goal. Naisby caught a hot drive from Reynolds, but the game at this point was almost devoid of interest. New Brompton gained another corner, from which Taylor headed into Naisby's hands. Rushing out to take a centre from Stansfield the goalkeeper left his goal open, but Brown lost the excellent opportunity by shooting wide. Another good centre from Stansfield was headed just wide by Quinn. Two minutes from the interval Stansfield again centred well, and Moody's header caused the goalkeeper to concede a corner, from which Moody made another creditable but futile attempt to score. Smith sent a shot straight for the corner of the net, but the goalkeeper cleared grandly, and Stansfield obtaining possession, shot just wide of the post. Half-time came with the score sheet blank.

Right from the re-start, Brown raced away and centred grandly from the goal-line. The goalkeeper cleared, but Stansfield forced a fruitless corner. The outside left lost two chances, first by shooting wide and secondly by running the ball over the line. The visitors were having a fair share of the game, and the crowd constantly urged the Luton players to play up. Stansfield centred to Quinn, but that worthy did not put enough powder into his shot, which Holmes easily saved. The Luton backs seemed to be the only part of the team in form, and the forwards certainly had an off-day.

At last Smith broke through, and transferred to Quinn. Tommy shot for goal, but the goalkeeper stopped the ball. Smith followed up and easily placed the ball in the net. The Blues immediately returned to the attack, and succeeded in gaining a corner. A corner kick to the visitors saw the ball shot over the bar. The game then became tame again, the visitors having slightly the better of matters. They spoiled their attacks, however, by constantly getting offside. Brown caused momentary excitement by racing past the back and passing to Smith, who almost scored.

Another centre from Brown caused the goalkeeper to kick out, and a promising opening was negatived by an infringement of the offside rule. An exciting scrimmage was waged near the visitors' goal, but the ball was got away. The offside rule was still considerably in evidence, especially where New Brompton were concerned. At last Stansfield ran in right from the line and scored a splendid goal. The same player shortly afterwards gained a corner and this was so well placed that half-a-dozen players were on the goal-line trying to move the ball. The referee's whistle relieved the situation. Smith gave Brown a judicious pass and the latter, beating the back, centred for Stansfield to head just over the bar. Towards the close, Smith passed across to Quinn, who sent the ball into the top corner of the net with a tremendous shot. Time came shortly afterwards with the score:—

LUTON 3, NEW BROMPTON 0.