

Football Notes and News.

By "THE GOALIE."

LUTON LOSE AT HOME.

A TALE OF MISSED CHANCES.

After Luton's splendid victory at Millwall the previous week, their supporters could not be accused of undue optimism in expecting their favourites to defeat Queen Park Rangers at Luton. These expectations were not realised, however, for the Londoners annexed the points by scoring the only goal of the match. This was entirely Luton's own fault, for the forwards had several excellent chances which they frittered away. Luton have now dropped to the ninth place in the League table, and will have a very difficult task next week, when they go to West Ham, in preventing a further fall.

In the beautifully adaptable and expressive language of the Stock Exchange, Luton's stock now stands at par, 24 matches having yielded the same number of points. The goal-average, however, is better than such a record would be expected to produce, 44 goals having been scored against 39. It has often been my lot this season to say hard things of the defence, but this time the boot is on the other foot. The rear divisions played excellent football, and so did the forwards—until they got in front of goal. So many good shots did Quinn put in without effect that he must have broken a mirror, or spilt the salt before coming to the match.

The game was a fairly fast one, and, indeed it showed more of the characteristics of the cup-tie rather than of an ordinary League fixture. The only goal of the match was not scored until eighty minutes had elapsed, and even then, to adopt the language of the loud-voiced gentlemen on the terraces, "it was nothing to brag about." But in football one goal is as good as another. Up to Saturday, Queen's Park Rangers had not won a game on foreign soil, and this fact is certainly no solatium for the defeat. A familiar figure was missed from the visitors' side in Barnes, who some seasons ago used to wear Luton's colours. Considering the fact that he was picked once this season to represent the Southern League, it is rather strange that he should not be worth including in the London team.

Bob Hawkes also stood down to rest his ankle, and Johnson played in his place. Perhaps the best man on the field was Wightman, who was always a thorn in the side of the visiting forwards. Time after time he cleared in magnificent style. Naisby also put in some effective work. In the forward line, Quinn was the outstanding figure, especially in the second half, when he gave Shaw many opportunities to act up to his name. Stansfield also put in some good work, and so did Brown, although he was not quite up to his best. The half-backs did their work well, but they, too, at times, seemed to waver.

Only two minutes had elapsed after the kick-off before the Luton goal had a very narrow escape, the ball hitting the post. At the other end, Smith intercepted a fine pass from Potts and shot about a yard wide. Two opportunities were wasted by Smith passing badly to his wingers. A grand centre by Brown was cleared at the expense of a corner, from which two others were gained. From the third Johnson drove the ball hard for goal, but it struck a defender, and was kicked away. Wightman sent in a long kick which caused the ball to pass near the goal. At the other end the ball rolled right across the goal, but fortunately nobody was up, and the ball went behind. A mix-up between F. Hawkes and Wightman almost resulted in a goal, but Naisby saved grandly.

A good run by Stansfield yielded a corner, from which Fred Hawkes shot high over the bar from about six yards' range. Quinn tried a long shot which went wide, and Moody was given offside in a promising rush. Steer got in a wonderful screw shot after a somewhat sustained attack by the Rangers, but Naisby was prepared for it. Smith took a "first-timer" at an admirable centre from Brown, but the ball went harmlessly yards over. In trying to clear, the goalkeeper kicked the ball against Bushell, and an exciting scrimmage ensued. A moment later Moody headed into Shaw's hands.

Another long shot from Quinn went dangerously near the post. The visitors gained a corner, and in the scrimmage which ensued, Johnson was hurt, but resumed after receiving attention from the trainer. Stansfield was set going by Moody, and Bushell shot just by the post. Brown centred excellently, and Stansfield's shot was turned on to the bar by Shaw. A minute later Stansfield and Smith ran into one another and spoilt the best chance of the match. Soon afterwards half-time came with no score.

Luton almost scored directly after the re-start. Stansfield raced down the field and centred across in front of goal, but Fidler cleared. The Rangers then put in a sustained attack, but so well did Wightman play that they rarely got near enough to the goal to shoot. The visitors' right wing was particularly troublesome, Whyman proving a continuous source of danger. At last the home team relieved the pressure, and Moody and Fred Hawkes tested Shaw in quick succession. On another occasion, from a centre by Johnson, the goalkeeper was charged over the line with the ball by Smith and Quinn, but the referee gave a free kick against Luton for some infringement.

Wightman's hustling tactics spoilt a good run by Whyman, and McKie nearly scored with a good shot. A brief attack by Luton was nullified by Moody getting offside. After beating the back, Brown centred on to the bar, and from the rebound Quinn caused the goalkeeper to turn the ball over for a corner. A free-kick was awarded Luton from just outside the penalty area, and Quinn just shot over the bar. A long drive from Quinn had to be turned over the bar by Shaw, and the resultant corner was cleared. Wightman was again responsible for some good tackling.

A promising attack was terminated by Stansfield getting offside, and at the other end Steer shot hard at Naisby. Quinn put in another of his fine shots. Browning made a good run, but the defence managed to bustle him off the ball. Smith got clear away, but the goalie rushed out and cleared admirably. He was penalised for carrying, however, and slightly hurt, too. Suddenly, the Rangers broke away, and Brindley centred, for McKie to score the softest of goals, the ball hardly reaching the net. This seemed to take the heart out of Luton, although once Moody looked like getting through, but he was hustled off the ball. Thus time came with the score:

QUEEN'S PARK 1, LUTON 0.