

LUTON v. PLYMOUTH ARGYLE.

Played at Luton on Easter Monday. Result:

Luton nil.

Plymouth nil.

The only alteration in the Luton team from

Saturday were the inclusion of Bob Hawkes in his usual position at left half, Johnson taking centre-half in place of Bushell, who was unable to turn out. The visitors were without Sutcliffe in goal, and played three amateurs in the forward line, the team being: Horne; Butler and Atterbury; McCormick, Wilcox, and Baker; Burch, C. V. Green, F. W. Warden, N. Wood, and Holden. The referee was Mr. R. H. Child (London).

The ground was very hard, and with a new ball — why have a new ball with a hard ground?—the players often found well-intentioned efforts going wrong. Nevertheless, the seven or eight thousand spectators saw a fairly interesting game, in which the home team had considerably the better of the exchanges but failed to meet with any tangible success.

Luton were soon forcing matters, and centres from Stansfield and Brown placed the Plymouth goal in jeopardy, but the first likely-looking attempt came from a free kick, conceded against the touch-line just outside the penalty area. Stansfield placed beautifully, and several smart attacks followed. Hands against Butler right on the penalty line gave the home side a further opening, and Stephenson headed in from Stansfield's kick, but Atterbury, standing beside Horne, managed to get the ball away.

The first corner fell to Luton, and subsequently Brown receiving a cross from Stansfield, had a good chance, but shot wide. Later on the visitors found themselves in the vicinity of the Luton goal, and McCormick sent in a fine shot, which Naisby stopped and Wightman cleared. The last incident of note before the interval was a burst through by Bob Hawkes, who looked to have a good run for goal, but he took a long shot and sent the ball over.

At the very beginning of the second half, Luton came near scoring, Walker heading in cleverly from a centre by Stansfield, but Horne saved. Another hot assault ensued upon a free kick, Horne beating back a couple of shots at close range, and then the visitors getting away, Johnson gave them their first corner. Nothing came of it, and Luton going away, Stansfield beat Butler and found himself with a fine opening, but he, too, essayed a long shot and was right off the target.

A splendid run by Burch next attracted attention, and it almost brought about the downfall of the Luton goal, but Fred Hawkes and Johnson managed between them to apply the closure at the very last moment. Play was soon at the Plymouth end again, and Stephenson was fouled when bearing down on goal. It was thought by many that a penalty had been incurred, but instead of that a free kick only was given—again right on the penalty line—and this was cleared.

Luton renewing their overtures, Brown centred and after a scrimmage, West sent the ball against the upright. Burch and Holden replied for Plymouth, but eventually Potts cleared, and Stephenson sending the ball across to Stansfield, that player returned it to the centre, and Walker put in a shot which Atterbury headed behind. Brown placed the corner kick well, and after a bit the outside-right put in a shot which Horne saved at full stretch, retaining possession of the ball. A terrific struggle ensued, Stansfield and Stephenson getting their heads hurt in the melee, and no score resulting.

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After another incursion by the visitors, Luton again acted on the aggressive, and Horne was lucky to save a header from Walker, whilst a grand bit of work by the inside-right shortly afterwards enabled Stephenson to dart between the backs and send in a shot which missed by inches only. In the last few moments Luton pressed strongly, but luck was against them, the ball again being shot against the post, and the Plymouth goal escaping.

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The game was not a great one, but was always fairly interesting, and on the run of the play Luton should have won comfortably. Unfortunately, however, they missed Moody badly, G. West, the amateur, being quite out-classed. He was certainly not a success on Saturday, and was too weak for words on Monday.

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Walker played a great game at inside-right, being clever and robust too, and Stephenson proved himself a centre-forward worth persevering with. Brown and Stansfield both did excellent work, but one centre from the outside-right is value for half-a-dozen of his shots.

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Johnson was simply indefatigable—his only fault being that sometimes he attempted a little too much. He went full tilt for the whole ninety minutes, and rendered his side splendid service. Bob Hawkes was in capital form, and the same may also be said of Fred. Wightman and Potts both played a fine defensive game, but the right back had some trouble with his leg which handicapped him somewhat in the later stages of the game. Naisby had nothing much to do in goal, whereas Horne was severely pressed at times, despite the fact that he had a couple of good backs in front of him.