

LUTON FOOTBALL NOTES.

By "The Goalie."

SOUTHERN LEAGUE.

LUTON AT BRISTOL.

CHANCES AND POINTS THROWN AWAY.

Luton's invalids are gradually getting better, and on Saturday the only notable absentee from the team that did duty against Bristol Rovers was Stangfield. True neither Shepherd nor Stephenson were included, but this was not because they were unfit, for both of them operated with the Reserves. Johnson took the centre-forward position, and Moody was partnered at outside-left by Lashbrooke. The defeat was not unexpected, but Luton gave a much improved display, and on Saturday's form should be easily able to account for Plymouth Argyle to-morrow.

Bristol Rovers put up quite one of their poorest displays of this season in the second half, and if the visitors, who were beaten by 2-1, had drawn level in the last ten minutes, it would not have been surprising. Indeed, Walker had a lovely chance of equalising the scores, for after Brown the outside right, had taken the ball down the wing, he parted with it to such advantage that Walker could have dribbled close in and found the weak spot in Roney's armour and probably beaten him. Instead of that, he let fly at long range, and the ball sailed high over the bar. Maybe this was to equalise the luck, for the only goal that Luton scored in the first half was edged with good fortune. Walker took the ball through, and when he had lured Roney out of goal parted with it to Moody, who shot. Brogan dropped back to clear, but instead of that, he could only touch the ball as it went into the net.

A possible reason why the Rovers shaped so indifferently in the second half was because they had been so clearly the masters of the situation before the change of ends that it was only neat work by Naisby in the Luton goal that had kept them from getting well on top. As it was, he was early beaten by J. H. Hughes, who was getting his place in the Rovers' premier team for the first time, and Peplow, who scored with a great shot 'run a difficult angle. In the second spell of the game both sides played poor football, and the Rovers' halves in particular disappointed, as they have been so often good. They parted with the ball to marked disadvantage, and the forwards in front of them went very much on their own, and most of their work was ragged in the extreme. Hughes, the amateur, was also badly starved in the second half. Bob Hawkes played a great game for Luton, checking several raids in the first half, and ably assisting the forwards to attack in the second.

The weather was all that could be desired, and the Rovers winning the toss, assumed the aggressive at once. Williams centring well from the kick, but Bob Hawkes relieved. Jones tried his luck with a long shot, which went very close, and from a corner J. Hughes tested Naisby with a strong effort, which taxed the goalkeeper's powers to the utmost. Bristol were making all the running, and Luton were only occasionally prominent, Brown once making a dashing run but finding Harvie one too many for him at the finish. Then Bristol opened the score. Brogan kicked far ahead, and Jones, following up successfully, prevented Naisby from clearing, and the ball came out to Hughes, whose return shot was blocked into the net by J. Hughes. Luton revived momentarily after this reverse, Lamb-brooke gaining ground from a long punt by Potts, but the ball was soon back in the visitors' quarters.

After Brown had twice failed with his chances, Walker made a clever opening for E. Hawkes, who put in a good shot, which Roney saved well. Bristol now transferred play, and Peplow, with a grand shot, scored a second goal for the home side. Luton replied with spirit, and attacked on the right, where Walker carried the ball well in. Roney ran out to meet him, but he passed to Moody, who scored for the visitors. Brown was prominent on the Luton right, but Harvie cleared. Jones forced a corner for the Rovers, from which he put in a hard drive. There was a distinct improvement in the shooting of the home side, and Naisby was lucky in dealing with a centre from Peplow. Walker made a good run, but could not get in a shot. Luton kept Bristol on the defensive, but the home backs were playing well. The strong kicking of the Luton backs and the smart work of the halves was a noticeable feature of the game. Half-time arrived with the score:—Bristol 2, Luton 1.

On re-starting Luton went off with much promise, and Walker shot over the bar. Still attacking, Johnson gained a corner, which was cleared. Bristol transferred, and following a free kick, Richards missed a nice pass from Peplow. Luton attacked again, and after Bushell had shot over, Moody was given offside when well placed. Peplow again supplied Richards with an opening, but Bushell smartly intercepted the shot. Luton suffered considerably from offside. Peplow gave Naisby a warm handful as the result of a free kick. Potts and Morris were prominent in defence, and Williams intercepted a smart centre from Brown. Play in the closing stages was rather disjointed, the half-backs feeding the forwards poorly, and well-directed shots were absent. Time was called with the score:—

BRISTOL ROVERS 2, LUTON 1.