

## WATFORD GET A POINT.

On Christmas Day a visit was received from Watford, who managed to go away with a draw. In this they were decidedly lucky, for Luton had the better of the play, while some of Watford's escapes in the second half were little short of miraculous. The game was a rather poor one, play being very ragged at times. Owing to the injury to Johnson, for whom, by the way, a collection was made at the gates, Shepherd appeared at centre-forward, and Stephenson took Brown's place at outside right. The new comers both played well, but in the second half, Shepherd had to be carried off the field, having injured his knee. Walker had an off day, but Moody was in fine trim. The two teams differ in that Watford are strongest in defence and Luton in attack, while both teams possess strong half-back lines.

A crowd of about eight thousand spectators saw Luton kick off on a soft ground. The weather was fine and Watford had the advantage of the wind. The visitors pressed from the start, but three minutes from the kick-off, Stansfield, nicely fed by Bob Hawkes, centred to Moody, who burst through and beat Webster with a fine cross shot. This woke matters up, and some exciting mid field work ended in Bob Hawkes and Moody sending in two fine shots. Once or twice the defenders on both sides were hampered in clearing by the ball sticking in the mud. Stephenson for Luton and Squires for Watford made capital attempts to make openings for their inside forwards, and on another occasion Grimsdell fired in a grand shot from a free-kick. Bob Hawkes and Stephenson were doing splendid work, and the Watford halves fed their forwards excellently. Another fine centre by Stephenson gave Stansfield a good opportunity, but the ball was diverted for a fruitless corner. The Luton right wing fairly mesmerised Watford with some nice carpet work, but it failed to lead to anything.

After the Watford forwards had muddled a nice opening presented to them by Wightman, some brilliant work on the Luton right saw Shepherd miss by inches with a grand attempt, while at the other end White equalised from a centre from Tattersall after the visiting forwards had fairly bombarded Naisby's charge. Watford were now having more of the game, which was as a rule fast and exciting. A short stoppage occurred owing to an injury to Shepherd, and on resuming Stansfield broke through on the left, and centred to Walker, but, as all luck would have it, the ball struck Webster and was kicked away by one of the backs. At the other end, some good dribbling by Tattersall ended in a centre which Naisby ran out and cleared in brilliant style. Luton pressed hotly towards the interval, but nothing further accrued, and lemon time found the score one all.

As in the first half, Watford pressed from the start, but on Luton going to the other end, Webster found himself on the ground with the home forwards swarming round him. So intent was the crowd behind the goal in watching the game that the barrier collapsed and precipitated the spectators on to the field of play. Watford were awarded a free kick, but Luton came again, and Shepherd had to be taken off through knee trouble. He soon returned, but he limped a little. Luton now played a rather ragged game, though Webster had to be very sharp to save a lightning shot by Stansfield. Bob Hawkes, too, made a good attempt, his shot passing just over the top corner of the goal. A magnificent pass by Moody set Stephenson going, and a minute later the latter forced Webster to concede a corner. At Naisby's end, offside extricated Luton from an awkward situation.

The game was now by no means up to the standard of the first half. Watford had another narrow escape when Stewart miskicked in front of Webster, but in spite of the close attentions of Shepherd and Co., the ball was got away. Luton made an unsuccessful appeal for a foul on Moody, but as Bert was offside, it was only poetic justice that it was disallowed. Shepherd again got in the wars, and this time had to be carried off. With ten men Luton had less of the play, but neither showed much enterprise in front of goal. Moody had a good chance to run through, but he was brought down, and time came with the score:

LUTON 1, WATFORD 1.