

Football.

LUTON SURPRISED BY PONTYPRIDD.

[By CRUSADER].

If Pontypridd on Saturday were able to make a draw of 2-2 at Luton, what will Cardiff City do on Boxing Day? But it is a waste of time, perhaps, to begin speculating about that already, for if Luton are able to win at Croydon next Saturday, goodness knows how far enthusiasm will carry them in their match the day after Christmas, especially when it is remembered that Cardiff only beat Treharris by 2-1 on Saturday. Still, it must be admitted that the game at Luton was a shock. Matches in the Second Division are comparatively so few that to lose a promotion point at home is rather unsettling. In spite of their improving record, one hardly expected Pontypridd to be so good, but how often do such things occur in football. Exeter City produced practically the same state of affairs on the Swindon ground on Saturday, much to the surprise of the home supporters there also.

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Coming with a victory of 5-1 over Aberdare at their backs, the Pontypridd team had plenty of confidence, and soon showed it. The ground was heavy and suited them much better than it did the Luton men. The rushing tactics of the visitors kept the home men quite off their game. They could not settle down a bit, and all through the first half and some distance into the second, it looked as if both points were to be taken to Wales. Hardman and his side men were very quick on the ball, and with the help of the backs it seemed that the Luton passes would never reach the men for whom they were intended. Any sort of neat play that was being worked up by the home team was quickly smashed up.

One or two of the visitors were not particular as to their methods either. Stephenson was brought over in a most glaring fashion when he was getting away with a clear run, and Streeton was fouled at least twice when he made a dash for goal. Still, the home side were not guiltless, for Potts unfortunately was apt to do unfair things when he found himself beaten. He certainly had a very busy time on his side of the field, but it would be ridiculous to make that an excuse. The whole forward line of the visitors were good, particularly the right wing (Morley and Hall) and the centre-forward (Stallworthy), whose goal which opened the scoring, was a beauty. It was Stallworthy who scored four against Aberdare the previous week.

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The home forwards were not allowed to settle down, though the inside men tried very hard, and in the second half, just before the first equaliser was obtained, the whole line swarmed around the Pontypridd goal for a few minutes. Worth was much below his usual form, and for the most part he and Streeton kept the ball too close. To the latter's credit, however, it must be said that he varied his play, and more than once made individual dashes when they looked like coming off. Wileman doesn't appear to settle comfortably on the extreme right. One good point about his play, however, was that he used the long pass, which gave the visitors less chance of smothering the attack. The home halves were not so effective as the visitors', but they hadn't such a reliable pair behind them, for Henderson and Potts, as a rule, were none too dependable. The Luton middle line, however, worked extremely hard, and it was Fred Hawkes who (making up for his slip in the Southend match) scored the two vital goals.

The gate receipts amounted to £92, and the spectators numbered 3,500. The weather was against a large attendance, rain having fallen all the morning.