

SOUTHERN ALLIANCE.

LUTON DEFEAT CARDIFF.

END OF THE SEASON FOOTBALL.

If the Southern Alliance produces much more football like that seen during the match between Luton and Cardiff City on Saturday, the competition will soon be killed. It was palpable that neither side, as a whole, was all out, although one or two players tried to serve up their best. The result was 2-0 in favour of Luton, who were rather flattered thereby. A draw would have more fairly represented the run of the game, but the Cardiff men did very little shooting, while the little they did do was rather poor stuff. There was nothing depending on the match, except that the result may give Luton second place, and this, combined with the rapid approach of the end of the season, may account for the quality of the football.

The outstanding players in the home team were Bob Hawkes and Wileman. The former was always working hard and his delightful touches formed one of the best features of the game. Wileman was practically the only forward to show any enterprise, and the goal he scored in the first half was a real beauty. As a team the visitors struck one as being the better combination. Although lacking three of their regular players, they seemed altogether better balanced, and in a serious match there is no doubt that Luton would stand very little chance against them. They were even more lackadaisical than Luton on Saturday, and the proceedings were reduced to a farce at the close when one of their backs, with a rather primitive idea of humour, deliberately tried to kick the ball into Ivy-road on every possible occasion.

The game does not call for much description. Playing against the wind in the first half, Luton showed the better form during the first quarter of an hour. Holland netted in the first minute, but was given offside—a very doubtful decision. The same player also struck the cross-bar, and the City goalkeeper, Lewis, saved a fine drive by Worth. These efforts quite entitled them to the lead, and their next attack secured it. Worth had taken a corner and placed the ball well in front of the goal. One of the backs, in trying to clear, returned it to him, and he again centred admirably, with the result that Wileman was able to dash up and with a first-time effort send the ball into the net. Evans should have equalised when he drew Bateman out of his goal, but his shot was taken at a difficult angle and it missed by inches only.

The first incident of note in the second half was a bad miss by Holland, who shot wide with an open goal. Devlin, the Cardiff centre, then got clean away, but he was badly brought down by one of the Luton men and the free kick came to nothing. At last Smith gave Stephenson an ideal pass, the ball going between the two backs, and dashing to meet it at top speed, Jimmie beat Lewis "all ends up." Soon after this, it appeared that Luton would score yet another goal, for as Wileman was working his way goal-wards he was fouled in a very palpable manner. After consulting the linesman the referee awarded a penalty, but Wileman shot straight at Lewis and the ball was got away. Result:—

LUTON 2, CARDIFF CITY 0.