

# SOUTHERN ALLIANCE.

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## LUTON WELL DEFEATED AT CARDIFF.

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## CITY FORWARD ORDERED OFF.

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The general expectations were realised on Saturday, when Luton wound up a disappointing season by losing at Cardiff. The score was 5-2, and the City were easily three goals better than the visitors. Whatever Luton's final position will be on the table, they have lost their chance of being runners up, and may end up as low as fourth. The goal scorers in this competition have been Wileman 8, Stephenson 5, Worth 4, Smith 3, Streeton 3, Thompson 2, and Price, Henderson, Davidson, Conquest, and Hawes one each.

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The ground was in a terrible state, and a strong wind, accompanied by almost continuous rain, did not improve the conditions. The early moments saw the City in a favourable position, and the game was not five minutes old before Evans started a movement which led to Devlin opening the score. It was a prettily-conceived opening of the outside left, who, beating Hawkes for possession, walked round Elvey, and Devlin, who was in a good position, received the ball in front of goal, and sent bank into the net, Bateman having no chance to save. Although the City were at a disadvantage in facing the weather, they kept on attacking. A well-placed corner by Tracey saw the ball fall at the feet of Devlin, who, whipping in, shot, and the ball, glancing off Elvey, went into the net, the City being two up within ten minutes of the start. Luton, with the wind behind, by some pretty movements on the left got somewhere near the danger zone, and a free kick against Clark saw Kneeshaw saving an awkward shot. Although the ground was heavy the form shown by both sides was sufficiently good. Stephenson cleverly worked round Hardy, and when threatened by Croft he passed to Wileman, who came in, and, using considerable judgment in evading Doncaster, shot hard for goal and beat Kneeshaw "all ends up."

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There was again from the kick-out an exciting movement in front of the Luton goal, and Jarvie was rather lucky in getting his foot to a shot from George Burton, while a moment later the ball from Devlin's foot glanced behind off the upright. Splendid judgment was used by the City forwards in their control of the ball against the strong wind. Evans neatly outwitted Elvey, and the ball went across to the right, and after Clark and Devlin had done their share, George Burton got his head to it and sent it into the net, well out of Bateman's reach. Everything the City forwards seemed to do came off trumps, their inter-passing on the heavy ground being remarkably fine, and entirely upsetting the work of the Luton intermediate line. Play was carried on at a remarkably fast rate considering the state of the ground, and although the Strawplaiters had the advantage of the wind they could make little headway against the home halves. Play was always interesting, and the interval came with Cardiff ahead by 3-1.

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The opening of the second half was sensational in the extreme, two goals being scored in the first minute. On the re-start Luton went down with a bang, and Wileman shooting, Kneeshaw got both hands to the ball, but so slippery was it that it eluded him and went into the net. From the kick-out Cardiff went away with a rush, and the Ball passing between the inside men, George Burton sent it past Bateman. All the time the rain was beating down pitilessly; in fact, from the stand it looked like sheets running horizontal with the ground.

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With the wind behind their backs, Cardiff made the most of their advantage, and kept the Lutonians on the defensive. George Burton gave Bateman a regular teaser, which the goalkeeper was lucky in getting away, and Hardy, following up, gave him another which seemed to have scored, for it appeared to carry the goalkeeper back into the net. The City made great progress, and, although they had the bad patch in front of goal to shoot from, Hardy was successful in putting on the fifth goal. The drop at one end of the ground which had been so noticeable on previous occasions when there has been rain, was even more so on this occasion. The inside forwards very often found themselves absolutely at sea with the ball when it settled in the mud and fell dead. With only five minutes to go, Clark was twice penalised, and on the second occasion Mr. Curtis ordered him off, but the appeal of George Latham led him to consult Mr. Cockroft, one of the linesmen. After speaking to him the referee emphasised his original decision by sending Clark off. The crowd resented this decision to a great extent, and there was an ugly rush as the final whistle blew, but Mr. Curtis reached the dressing-room unmolested. Result:—

**CARDIFF CITY 5, LUTON 2.**

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