

Luton Win at Portsmouth.

MITCHELL HIT WITH A STONE.

Southern Alliance. Played at Fratton Park yesterday (Wednesday). Result:—

Luton	2 goals.
Portsmouth	1 goal.

The teams turned out as follow:—

Luton: Mitchell; Robinson and Jarvie; F. Hawkes, Frith, and Wilson; Stevens, Wileman, Brewis, Rollinson, and S. Hoar.

Portsmouth: Heath; Warner and Johnson; Arnold, Harwood, and Reid; Hogg, Strongfellow, James, Mountenay, and Shaw.

Referee: Mr. C. W. Garrett (Bournemouth).

Portsmouth, who were rather anxious to get a win, seeing they lost at home on the previous Saturday, turned out practically their Southern League team, only the goalkeeper and left back being reserve players, and of these Johnson had quite a big reputation with Clapton Orient previous to joining Chelsea, who paid a big transfer fee for him two seasons ago. As Luton were four short of their Saturday team, their performance was quite a good one, although undoubtedly the regular players were the mainstay of the side. It will be noticed that S. Hoar, of the Clarence, made his second appearance in the Southern Alliance, and did really well in the second half after he got over a little natural hesitation.

Portsmouth had the wind behind them in the first half, and quite early on took the lead as a result of Shaw rounding Robinson and planting the ball in a good position for James to get clear, Mitchell being quite helpless to prevent James finding the net. Portsmouth continued to press for a time, but eventually the Luton forwards got together, and Brewis sent Wileman through with a nice pass, and the inside-right finished the movement with a sharp drive into the corner of the net. Before the interval Hoar gave Heath two or three long shots to deal with, although if they had been dropped a yard or so away from goal it might have given one of the inside players a chance to score, while in each case the goalkeeper caught the ball and cleared. No further goals were scored up to the interval, the teams crossing over on equal terms.

Portsmouth applied pressure on changing over, and Mitchell did well to save shots from Stringfellow and Mountenay, but at the other end the Pompey goal had an even narrower escape when Hoar, getting a fine pass from Rollinson, sent in a high centre, which appeared to be travelling out just wide of the goal, but actually hit the far upright on the inside, Heath being completely beaten. Stevens, who had run in, had only to touch the ball for it to be a goal, and really it is difficult to understand how the ball missed him as it rebounded across the goalmouth, but Heath recovering, managed to clear in the luckiest manner imaginable. The Luton players claimed the ball was actually through before it was cleared, but the referee would not agree.

Straight away from this incident the home forwards got down the field, and James, taking over while only some five yards out, seemed certain to score, but Mitchell dropped on the ball and a regular mix-up under the bar took place. It was difficult to see what was actually occurring, although there was quite a suspicion that blows were exchanged. Anyhow, the referee at last blew his whistle and gave Luton a free kick. Even now the players were very excited, and as the referee was walking down the field for the place kick, Hogg and Jarvie were observed to be locked in each other's arms, but by the time the referee had turned round they were getting into a more regular attitude, and no official notice was taken. Mitchell was about to kick off when he received a nasty blow on the ear with a stone thrown from the back of the goal, and refused to restart the game until the referee had spoken to the crowd at that end of the field. For the remainder of the game Mitchell was "barracked" unmercifully, but he was not the original sinner, for he was badly kicked more than once while holding the ball in the first instance.

One result of the above mentioned incident was the game became more exciting and both teams set to work to get the winning advantage. The Luton defence were sorely tried for several minutes, but managed to maintain their charge, and five minutes off time a brilliant run by Stevens, who simply left the home halves and backs standing, culminated in a beautiful square pass to Rollinson, who made no mistake with his final effort, and Luton had beaten Portsmouth at Fratton Park for the first time in their history.

It was quite a good game, and but for the incident mentioned quite a pleasant one. Rollinson was naturally pleased to get the winning goal against his old clubmates, and it was evident from his reception he was a favourite with the crowd while he wore Pompey colours. Fred Hawkes, who captained the side again, played well and is now in his best form. It is rather curious that the present stage in the competition finds Luton with half the clubs still to play, while they have concluded their matches with the other four members, and as they are only one point behind the leaders they have quite a good chance for championship honours.

honours.

The vacant date on November 8th will probably be filled by bringing the match at Pontypridd forward from January 31st, and thus clearing the 2nd round of the Football Association Cup proper, in the hope Luton will be still engaged in that competition and thereby save any question of compensation. This means Luton will be playing in Wales for three Saturdays in succession, and will before appearing again at home have played seven of their fifteen away Southern League games.
