

Defeat at Last !

SURPRISING RESULT AT LLANELLY.

OFFSIDE GOAL UPSETS LUTON.

The inevitable has happened, and Luton have lost their first match of the season in the Second Division of the Southern League, Llanelly being the team to lower their colours. Although the defeat itself was not a great surprise, Lutonians hardly expected their favourites to go down by such a score as 3-0. The other English clubs who were playing on Saturday both gained the maximum number of points. Stoke entertained Treharris, and defeated the lowly-placed team by 5-1, while Croydon Common visited Caerphilly and annexed the two points by the odd goal of three. The only other League match was at Pontypridd, where Mardy went under by 3-0. Contrary to expectations, Luton will not have a blank date to-morrow, for the match at Pontypridd has been moved forward. Luton will therefore have another stiff hurdle to negotiate.

Despite the divergence in records, the Llanellyites were favourites for Saturday's match. On their own ground they had not been beaten, and it was hopefully anticipated by their followers that they would be the first to humble the pride of the Lutonians. There was, too, sufficient grounds for holding this belief, as the Scarlets have only been at their best when up against "foreign" friends. It will be remembered how about this time last year they humbled the winning Southend team, who ultimately found their way to the First Division. Then, after being a goal down at half-time the Llanellyites surprised even their supporters by their brilliance in the second half, when they scored a quartette of goals, and ultimately won by 4-1. Both teams were strongly represented, the teams turning out as follows:—

Llanelly: Bailiff; Bracher and James; Gough, Martin, and Morris; Osborne, Groves, Freeman, Curtis and Payne.

Luton: Mitchell; Elvey and Jarvie; F. Hawkes, Frith, R. Hawkes; Stevens, Wileman, Simms, Rollinson and Wilkie.

Martin, the Llanelly captain, won the toss, and decided to attack first from the town end with the assistance of the wind. The Scarlets were early aggressive, but when favourably placed Freeman over-ran a nice centre from Osborne. There was a splendid movement by the visitors forwards after this. Stevens beat Gough and centred cleverly for Rollinson to beat James but unfortunately he was whistled offside when favourably placed. The Reds, however, soon got back to the attack, but Elvey intercepted a pass from Groves to Osborne, and sent the ball back to touch well over the half-way line. The home forwards then contributed some exceptionally fine work near goal mouth. For fully a minute the ball went from one to another, right along the line, but the defence was well concentrated and no shot was attempted until Osborne centred grandly, and Curtis headed to the corner of the net, a shot which Mitchell partially negotiated. Immediately after Osborne again centred well, and Freeman this time headed low. Mitchell just managed to turn the shot round the post, conceding a corner. This was nicely placed by Payne, but Mitchell saved well. By swift and sharp passing the visiting forwards changed the aspect of affairs and two corners came their way in quick succession. Bailiff for the first time fisted well out of danger, and James cleared the second. The home team, however, were soon back on the attack, and Osborne was fouled by Hawkes just outside the penalty area. The resultant free kick placed the visitors' goal in danger, but Elvey saved the situation.

Llanelly then lost a splendid chance. Mitchell, the visiting goalie, had left his charge to meet a shot from Curtis. He only partially cleared, and Payne got possession a few yards from the empty goal. A miskick by James gave the visiting centre-forward an excellent opportunity. He raced up the field and sent out to Stevens, who sent in a long dropping shot, Bailiff fisting away. A pass by Curtis put Groves in a splendid position, but luckily for the visitors, Elvey charged down the shot, which looked like beating Mitchell all the way. There was a great deal too much offside play, due to the full-backs of both sides indulging in the one back dodge. Once the Llanelly forwards were exceptionally well placed, but Jarvie, running up the field placed everyone offside, when a goal seemed certain. Fouls were committed by both sides, and this went far to spoil the game as a spectacle. At the interval there was no score.

Upon restarting, the home team were at once aggressive, but Curtis shot over the bar. Osborne received the ball from the kick-out, and was sailing up the field when Jarvie, having been easily beaten, was cautioned by the referee for fouling the diminutive Scarlet right. The Strawplaiters now attacked, and Frith, the centre half, shot wide. After this Wileman and Simms muddled up matters when they were favourably placed. Frith soon after shot wide. The Reds then attacked, but Jarvie sent them back. Freeman was prominent, initiating a nice opening before sending to Curtis. He in turn gave to Payne. The last-named had none but the goalie to beat, and Jarvie again cleared. Then came a bit of excitement Curtis sending in a hot shot, which ended in Mitchell conceding a corner. How the Strawplaiters cleared this is a mystery, and there was a melee in the goal-mouth for several seconds. The home team, however, were not to be denied, for rushing back to the attack, a splendid passing bout was brought off by the forwards, and this ended in Curtis finding the net fifteen minutes after the re-start. Luton strongly claimed that this was offside, but the referee allowed the point. Encouraged by this lucky goal and the enthusiasm of the crowd, Llanelly could now do nothing wrong, and before the close Groves and Curtis added further goals. Result:—

LLANELLY 3, LUTON 0.

FOOTBALL.

Luton's Second Defeat.

After Llanelly comes Pontypridd. Personally, the news of the defeat of Luton on Saturday did not surprise me, remembering the difficulty that Pontypridd is apt to cause a visiting club. Yet, it seems, Luton were very near bringing off a win, and had very hard lines in being beaten. However, a defeat is a defeat, and no amount of qualifying and explaining makes the slightest difference in the hard facts and figures of the League table. So Luton sink to fourth position. It is trying for the members of the team, no doubt, but it will only make things worse to lose heart. One may anticipate a crop of suggestions for the team selectors, but a win should be certain at Ton Pentre next Saturday, and that will lighten the load a little. The supporters will have an opportunity of judging the play themselves next Wednesday, when Southampton pay a Southern Alliance visit, and on the following Saturday, when Mid-Rhondda will come up.

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Croydon Common head both the Southern League and Southern Alliance tables. During the week-end they have scored eight goals to nothing. It was good work to score three goals to nil at Brentford in the Alliance, and one would expect that it was harder business than beating Ton Pentre by 5-0 on the Saturday at Selhurst. Stoke's 3-2 victory at Swansea is worth a lot, and they are only one point behind Croydon now. Each team has scored the same number of goals, but while Croydon have had 4 against, Stoke have had 8 against. Brentford, however, have more sureness about their progress. Played 7, won 7, 28 goals for, and 2 against is a capital record, and presages promotion. Their game on Saturday at home against Mardy is described as very clever. It was effective cleverness, too, for they scored 4 goals. Mid-Rhondda got two of the three goals at Abertillery. At Barry, where Caerphilly were the visitors, there was no score.

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A meeting of football supporters will be held at the Corn Exchange next Tuesday (Nov. 18th) at 8.15 p.m., to hear a statement on behalf of the Supporters' Committee in reference to proposed excursion to certain football matches during the season.