

Football Notes.

By "THE GOALIE."

ENGLISH CUP.

GOOD-BYE TO THE CUP.

LUTON LOSE AFTER DRAWN GAME.

For the present season Luton's interest in the Cup has vanished, for on Wednesday they were beaten by South Shields. Saturday's game at Luton resulted in a goalless draw the home team being robbed of victory by the brilliant goal-keeping of Naisby. On Monday the draw for the first round of the Competition Proper was made, and it was seen that the winner of the tie would have to go to Burnley, a prominent First League team. This was something worth playing for from a financial point of view, but with the advantage of ground South Shields were enabled to win the replay. Although their games have been confined to the qualifying rounds, Luton have done much better than usual out of the Cup. The two gates at Luton put together just top the £500 mark, and with about £300 taken at South Shields, Luton's share of the receipts from the three matches must be well over £300.

Naisby's Brilliance.

HOW LUTON WERE ROBBED OF VICTORY.

"If Luton beat this team I shall be much surprised," I remarked to a South Shields journalist after the first fifteen minutes of Luton's cup-tie on Saturday. He thought for a minute and then replied, "I'm afraid they have started too strongly to keep it up." As it happened he proved to be right. South Shields were so superior to Luton during the opening portion of the game that defeat seemed inevitable. One must not forget the splendid work done by Jarvie during that anxious period. The attack was concentrated on his wing, but he never once missed the ball. For the rest of the first half it was all Luton, and the visitors' goal had a number of escapes that can only be described as miraculous. It is true that Naisby, the old Luton goalkeeper, played a game that excels any of his performances for Luton, but the fact must not be overlooked that in spite of his brilliance he had a lot of luck. On several occasions he happened to be in the right place just by accident, and with the score sheet blank at the interval Luton's chance was gone.

Almost right up to the last minute the selection of Luton's team was a matter of doubt, but happily the directors were able to put the strongest team possible in the field. Mitchell had in front of him Elvey and Jarvie, and the half-back line was F. Hawkes, Frith, and R. Hawkes. Durrant, in spite of conflicting rumours, appeared at outside right, with Wileman, quite recovered from his strained thigh, as his partner. Simms was in the centre, with Rollinson and Wilkie on the left wing. The South Shields team was as follows:—Naisby; Wood and Johnson; B. Hall, E. Hall, and Brooks; Keenlyside, Thornley, Bridgett, Anderson and Arthur. Of these men the best known are Bridgett, the old international Sunderland player, and Thornley, of Manchester City fame. The visitors are taking part in the North-Eastern League, and are at the head of the table with a record of eleven wins and one loss in fifteen games.

Luton's outstanding players were Jarvie, Frith and Durrant. The former was voted the best back on the field, and one cannot recall a bad mistake on his part. Frith was here, there, and everywhere, and if he would give just a little more attention to his forwards he would prove an ideal centre-half. Almost every dangerous attack on the part of Luton was initiated by Durrant, who put in more centres than any of the four wingers. Wileman did not get many chances to shoot, and Simms was perhaps the best marksman. Rollinson and Wilkie were not seen to much advantage, but Bob and Fred Hawkes did some very effective work. Anderson was the visitors' most effective forward, and they also owe a great deal to E. Hall, their splendid centre-half. The man of the team, however, was Naisby, who came in for hearty receptions from the spectators after each half.

South Shields had their best chance of scoring early in the game, when Thornley had a glorious forward pass. Shaking off the backs he went through, but Mitchell went at full length at his shot and saved at the expense of a corner. When Luton at last got going, Durrant proved a rare thorn in the visitors' side. From one of his centres Simms put the ball over when he had only to touch it in, and from another Naisby made the luckiest saves imaginable from Rollinson and Simms, the ball accidentally striking him during a melee. These were the most narrow escapes the visitors' goal had before the interval, although Naisby saved splendidly on numerous occasions. The best shot of the match was seen in the second half, when Simms had the misfortune to strike the cross-bar, while Naisby fisted out a pile-driver from Bob Hawkes. About half-way through, the visitors re-arranged their forward line, Bridgett going outside left, Thornley centre, and Arthur inside right, but still Naisby had most of the work to do. It was not until near the end that the Northerners put in a sustained attack, and Mitchell made one glorious save from a fast cross-shot from Bridgett. Result:—

LUTON 0, SOUTH SHIELDS 0.