

LUTON v. STOKE.

Luton began their holiday programme in an suspicious manner on Good Friday by practically putting an end to the aspirations of one of their rivals, Stoke. So keen is the enthusiasm of Luton football supporters at present that it was not surprising that the size of the crowd hovered round record figures, but unfortunately the football was not of the quality that one would have wished. This was partly due to the over-keenness of the players owing to the momentous issues at stake and partly to the fact that for half the game Luton were put out of gear by having to play ten men. They then had the lead, and had to play a spoiling game that was not much as a spectacle, but it served its purpose, and so Luton won. Based on the actual amount of attacking done by each team, a draw would perhaps have been a fairer result, but the Luton forwards accepted their chances better than did the Stoke quintette. Unstinted praise must also be accorded the Luton backs, Elvey and Robinson, who played sterling football during a very trying time.

Half-time found Luton a goal to the good, the point coming after about twenty minutes' play. The successful movement was actually initiated by Wileman, who cleverly passed to Simms. The centre transferred the ball to Hoar with a long, swinging pass, and the winger's centre was so perfect that Rollinson had an easy task to head it into the net. The only incident previous to that was an offside point by Simms, but soon after Luton took the lead their own goal had a hair-raising escape. A swift centre from the Stoke outside-left passed in front of goal out of Mitchell's reach, and the ball struck Robinson's head and luckily rebounded to the goalkeeper, who caught and cleared. It was soon after this that Durrant's knee was injured, and although he resumed playing he could do very little and retired for good at the interval. The second half opened with a very lucky goal for Luton. Wileman ran the ball up the field and put it in the centre. The back made two attempts to clear, but bungled badly, and with the goalie coming out, Simms was able to put the ball in the net. This was soon negatived by a goal from Smith, but Stoke, try as they would, failed to equalise, so Luton won by two goals to one.