

FROM THE FOOTBALL FIELD.

LUTON FORWARD ORDERED OFF AT SOUTHEND.

No very drastic changes were made in the Town team on account of the heavy defeat by Crystal Palace. Indeed the dropping of Urwin and Tomlinson was merely the result of injuries sustained the previous Saturday. The forward line naturally resumed its old formation, and the vacancy at half-back was used to give Brandham his first opportunity in the Southern League team. Southend were also compelled to make a number of changes. Wileman was brought from half back to outside right, although the original intention was for him to occupy his old post at inside right. The most notable newcomer in the ranks of the "Shrimpers" is "Lot" Jones, of Manchester City. Like Luton, the Southend team have not given their supporters unmixed satisfaction, and gates have also been somewhat disappointing. On Saturday, the total present, including boys, was under 4,000, and this was understood to be up to the average, although it is evident it will not meet their fortnightly expenses. The new ground so far as the pitch itself is concerned is not so bad, but the arrangements for the spectators are rather primitive, and the new stand is a most wonderful example of what an up-to-date stand should not be. Apparently the intention is at some future time to extend it, but for the present it is very exposed, being open at each end, and on a bitter day like Saturday it would be more comfortable to stand on the ground.

The teams turned out as follows:—

Luton.—Summers; Elvey, Dunn; Brandham, Rutherford, Parker; Hoar, Roe, Simpson, Williams and Bookman.

Southend.—Emblem; Reid, Marshall; Evans, Bollington, Woodward; Wileman, Frost, Burrill, Jones and Young.

Referee, Sergt.-Major F. W. Rowles.

The breeze was pretty strong, and some satisfaction was felt among the select Luton party, when it was noticed Elvey had won the toss. It proved rather a hindrance than a help, for it was difficult to control a light ball, and on the whole the forwards made a better show against the wind. Still the bulk of the play took place at the pavilion end, and Luton should have made matters safe in the early stages, but the shooting was right off the target, and Emblem was not troubled a deal.

No score took place during the opening quarter of an hour, and then from the first real attack by Southend they succeeded in opening the score through the agency of Frost, who was almost under the bar when he got the ball, which had been crossed at least half-a-dozen times without the Luton defence getting it away. Notwithstanding this unexpected setback Luton continued to press without any tangible result, and then another breakaway resulted in a second goal to Southend. Incidentally this settled the result, for, arising out of this point, Williams got marching orders, and Luton were reduced to ten men to fight a two-goal deficit.

From the pavilion it was difficult to judge the legitimacy of this goal nicely, but Front was certainly well in front of Jones, who pushed the ball forward, and the Luton players were very indignant at the decision. When the players lined up, Williams voiced his comrades feelings, and the referee apparently took exception to Williams' expression, and sent him to the dressing-room. Only those in the middle of the field can decide whether the referee's action was justified, and the matter must be left until the Football Association decide the point. Reduced to four forwards, Luton were not so much in the home quarters, but they managed to hold out until the interval, when the score read: Southend 2, Luton 0.

The second half was spoilt to a large extent by the frequent stoppages by the referee to lecture the players. It was usually the Lutonians who received the warning, and the Luton players certainly have no particular desire to see Mr. Rowles again, for his manner was most irritating, and re-acted on the game. Summers was not given a deal of work, and only one goal came along during the concluding half. Possible this was quite as well for Summers was little more than a cripple, and found great difficulty in getting across the goalmouth. Let Jones was the only successful player on the target, although Simms had distinct hard lips when he landed the ball on the top of the cross-bar with a splendid header from Bookman's centre. Result:—

Southend 3, Luton 0.

The game was very ragged all through, and no Luton player would claim to have enhanced his reputation as a consequence of his visit to Southend. Before the game commenced misfortune set in, for Summers badly wrenched his thigh in taking a lunge at the ball when the players were "kicking in," and as the game progressed he went quite lame, otherwise he might have got to a couple of the goals. In no department did Luton play up to the Northampton form, although Elvey and Dunn on the whole defended bravely. Rutherford was the pick of the halves. Brandham, it is true, worked like the proverbial mule, but he failed to make up for the loss of Urwin. The home-left wing were too clever, Let Jones in particular having a good time. Of the Luton forwards it can only be said they have done much better, and trust they will not repeat Saturday's form.

For Southend next to Let Jones, who was a regular bunch of tricks, no one did better than Wileman, and it is probable he will get an extended run at outside right. The home backs did quite a lot of big kicking, but were not played on sufficiently to properly test their