

FOOTBALL.

LUTON TOWN DEFEATED AT PORTSMOUTH.

LAST NIGHT'S MATCH.

PORTSMOUTH 3 Goals.
LUTON TOWN Nil.

Portsmouth.—Robson; Probert, A. E. Knight; Abbott, Harwood, Turner; Thompson, Stringfellow, Armstrong, James, Youtman.

Luton Town.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Parker, Cockerill; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Referee: J. E. Head, London.

The Town relied on the same team that beat Swindon last Saturday for this return game at Portsmouth, and although it cannot be said that any other than the players themselves went to Portsmouth this morning with the thought that they would pick up both points, it was generally felt that they would give Pompey a very good game, and would certainly manage to stave off anything like the defeat sustained in the other away game on the first Saturday of the season. The home team was different in three respects from that which drew at Luton ten days ago. A. E. Knight, the amateur, played at back instead of Potts, Armstrong was at centre instead of Reid, and Youtman was on the extreme left vice Beedie.

Our special correspondent at Portsmouth tells the following story of the game:—

Luton opened very strongly, and for quite five minutes they swarmed round the home goal, Higginbotham and Mathieson being very prominent, and both compelling Robson to prove his ability. The home backs and halves were some moments before they could cope with the swift rushes of the visiting wingers, and the mass attacks of the three inside men, and Simms required a lot of watching, but Knight and Probert gave him little rope.

Eventually the clearance was effected, and by means of a smart run on the home right, Bailey's charge was jeopardised. Thompson once rounded Tirrell very prettily, and then had the ill-luck to hit the cross-piece with a great shot. Two corners followed to Portsmouth, but the "Whites"

PACKED THEIR GOAL

and got the ball away.

After danger had been averted from a well-judged centre by Hoar, Portsmouth again attacked and kept Luton defence well employed. Bailey was conspicuous for several clearances. He nicely caught a dropping shot from Abbott, punched away a corner kick, and smartly cleared a short range effort by Stringfellow.

Most of Luton's attacks were

INITIATED BY BOOKMAN

on the left, his speed being a very disturbing factor, but his centres were intercepted by the backs. Mathieson and Higginbotham being conspicuous by their absence, and Simms alone laying well forward.

After thirty minutes' play, Stringfellow made a fine dash through the defence, and smartly eluding both backs, he shot the ball hard past Bailey, who

HAD NO CHANCE

whatever to save.

Portsmouth now had matters all their own way, and Bailey again came into action when he secured another shot from Stringfellow. From a free kick, Hoar dropped the ball just over the bar, but the combination of the Portsmouth forwards was clever, and the Luton defence had to work hard to break it up. Tirrell and Parker were doing a great deal to upset the home attack, but forward kicks were generally too far up the field to be secured by the forwards. Lennon was fortunate to slip in and stop an effort by James only a few yards from goal.

Simms was making the most of his few opportunities, but Knight and Probert were always equal to the task of clearing. Robson had no difficult shots to save except at the opening of the game. Half-time:

PORTSMOUTH 1 Goal.
LUTON TOWN Nil.

On the resumption Luton opened briskly, and Hoar cleverly taking play along his wing, beat Turner and passed to Higginbotham, who shot over the bar, but from such a distance that the effort could not be regarded as dangerous. Simms was making headway for goal when fouled by Knight, but the free kick was weakly taken.

Luton then experienced bad luck by losing Higginbotham, who was

GIVEN MARCHING ORDERS.

apparently for a foul on Turner. Higginbotham prepared to vigorously kick the ball while it was between Turner's legs. The ball was tipped on one side, and Turner's legs appeared to be seriously endangered. Realising this danger, Higginbotham stopped short and did not touch Turner at all, and although the referee was appealed to, he insisted on the player leaving the field. Shortly afterwards James rounded the backs and scored from short range.

Higginbotham, however, had previously been cautioned for rough play five minutes after the second goal. A splendid passing movement by the Portsmouth forwards, baffled Luton's defence, and Stringfellow cleverly netted the third goal.

Lennon was playing a remarkable game and effectively cleared time after time.

One of the finest shots of the game came from the Luton side, Hoar following up an individual effort by Simms and just skimming the bar. Simms tried his luck a little later from twenty yards out, but the goalkeeper saved. Portsmouth won well.