

SECOND ROUND ON BOXING DAY.

If the "Saints" were fortunate at Luton it must be admitted that the Town were lucky at Southampton, and again the defence earned a point. Our special correspondent says:—

The Luton side rather astonished the 20,000 spectators at the Dell by the way in which they set about their work. It had been anticipated that the "Saints" would have a comfortable time after drawing at Luton, but the players were under no false impression, for they confessed that they were fortunate to bring away a point from Bedfordshire. The Luton forwards swung the ball about very well, and their combination was far better than that of the "Saints," but the home forwards, relying on their rushing tactics, did quite as much pressing, although they did not have so much of the ball as Luton. The first half was Luton's, taking the game on the whole, and although there was an element of luck about the goal they got, it was not begrudged. It came about this way. A free kick on the edge of the penalty area to Luton saw the home backs fall back into

goal. MATHIESON took the kick and sent in well. Either Allen or Timmes might have reached it, but both hesitated a second and the ball curled into the net. Luton might easily have been two up if Simms had taken a chance that came his way soon afterwards, but he appeared to be somewhat lost without the close attention of Moorhead, who followed him about like a dog, and in an effort to place the ball out of Allen's reach he sent wide. It was a long time before the "Saints" could do anything against the Luton defence, their attacks not being at all well engineered, and the interval was approaching before Bailey had anything very serious to save.

Then he was tested by Parker and came out of the ordeal splendidly. In the second half the Luton side, playing against the wind, controlled the ball much better than the "Saints," and keeping it on the floor they did much more attacking than was expected. However, they lacked sting in front of goal, many shots being mis-directed, and others lacking speed. The visiting backs also played with great confidence behind industrious halves, and it was rather hard luck for Bailey that he should be beaten by Moore during a scrimmage in which he could not see the ball. After this the "Saints" put on full pressure, and although their methods were not pretty by any means, they were always dangerous, and Bailey and his backs were worked at their top gear. The goalkeeper made quite a number of thrilling saves, and the crowd rose to him once when he singlehanded kept out the home forwards thrice in almost as many minutes. Tirrell and Semple did well, too, and the home inside forwards got very few chances to shoot.

Both goals had narrow escapes before the close. Higginbotham once got through and was upset right in the goal area. The referee whistled and Allen threw the ball to the penalty spot. For some reason, however, the referee suddenly changed his mind and refused to allow a penalty. That was Southampton's luck. Within a minute of the end Foxall met a centre and put the ball into the Luton goal. It appeared to be a good goal, but the Luton players yelled offside—and offside it was. That was Luton's escape.

The Luton men were well satisfied with their point. They thoroughly deserved it. Although not quite so robust as the "Saints," they gave a fine, wholehearted display, showing plenty of speed and stamina, and keeping up a hot pace to the end. Bailey was a magnificent goalkeeper, and his judgment and alacrity were at times almost marvellous. Semple was a splendid deputy for Lennon, his anticipation of the movements of the home forwards being really fine. He intercepted any number of well meant passes, and he was never at fault in his volleying. Tirrell played grandly, his tackling being strong without being harmful to limb, and on one occasion his quick wits saved the goal after Bailey was beaten. The halves were severely tried by the strong home forward line, but they stood up to their gruel and gave as good as they received. It would be difficult to make a choice. Parker was the cleverest, perhaps, but Molyneux and Lamb played soundly, and refused to be beaten, and they certainly got the ball away better. Rawlings was quite subdued by Parker, and he also kept a sharp eye on Dominy. Simms had a bad day. Moorhead simply declined to leave him, and at times the pair were wandering about the field almost as close together as the Siamese twins. In spite of this he did useful work, and both Mathieson and Higginbotham got a rather loose time. The wingers were fast, but occasionally fought shy of the robust tackles of the home halves and backs.

Parker was the pick of the home defence, with Moorhead the best half, and Foxall and Barrett the best of the forwards.

SOUTHAMPTON.—Allen; Parker, Timmes; Shelley, Moorhead, Turner; Barrett, Dominy, Rawlings, Moore, Foxall.

LUTON.—Bailey; Semple, Tirrell; Molyneux, Parker, Lamb; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

With the exception of Semple for Lennon the teams on Christmas Day were as above.