

WATFORD DRAW AT LUTON.

That we were disappointed with the result of the match on the Town ground goes without saying, for if we are to be denied promotion, we want to finish up the League table as far as possible, and, moreover, if we like to beat any team it is Watford. There was not a tremendous lot of enthusiasm over Saturday's game, but it was a clean and interesting tussle with the issue in doubt right to the end. Of actual play the Town had the better of the exchanges, and certainly had more opportunities than Watford, but they were not able to drive home their attacks against a hefty and solid defence. Indeed, the Watford forwards, although they had less of the ball than the Town, showed a nicer appreciation of their opportunities, and whenever they did get on the move they showed more precision, and, swinging the ball about from wing to wing, gave the impression of being a better machine than the Town's front line. What the Town lacked in polish, however, they made up by dash and energy, and Williams and his backs frequently had strenuous periods. This was particularly the case in the second half, when there were two or three very exciting struggles in Watford's goal-mouth, but always the defenders came through with flying colours.

Watford opened the score through SMITH after 10 minutes' play, the inside-right accepting a pass from Pagnam after

good work by White, and shooting into the net as Bailey made a hopeless dash from goal. It was a good goal, but not quite so smartly obtained as the equaliser by REID just before the interval. The young centre-forward and Higginbotham took the ball nearly half the length of the field, and Reid finally shot past Williams a hard, low ball that just grazed the post as it went in. On the stroke of the interval Horsman handled in his goal-mouth, but the referee was whistling at the moment, and so the visitors had a lucky escape.

The Town did much attacking after the change of ends, but could make little impression on the Watford defence, and in one of the retaliations, following a fine save by Bailey, Tirrell handled to keep out a header from Pagnam. The last-named took the penalty kick, but Bailey effected a sensational save, and the ball was got away. The remainder of the game was contested chiefly in midfield, and no excessive anxiety was caused either defence.

For the Town, Bailey's excellent work was not confined to the saving of the penalty kick. He was not so often in the picture as Williams, but of the occasions he was called upon, each was an important one. Lennon and Tirrell were powerful backs, kicked strongly, and tackled with determination. Walker excelled at half, both in defence and offence, and Walsh and Millar gave good support. The latter met a fast and clever wing, and maintained his reputation as a most promising player. Walsh was a rare worker and spoiler. Higginbotham was the pick of the forwards, playing with a skill and cunning that he has never previously exhibited. Reid again showed that he deserves to be persevered with, and his goal should do him a lot of good. Butcher was as zealous as ever, and Hoar rose to the occasion splendidly, but Bassett could not shine against his old club-mates.

For Watford Williams got through a lot of work with his customary coolness, and Horsman and Gregory were a fine pair of backs, and the equal of the Town pair. At half Toone was the most effective of a strong line, and in the forward line Wallington and White were the best, although Smith showed a good deal of individual skill.

LUTON TOWN 1 goal

WATFORD 1 ..

LUTON TOWN.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Walsh, Walker, Millar; Bassett, Higginbotham, Reid, Butcher, Hoar.

WATFORD.—Williams; Horsman, Gregory; Toone, Strain, Carter; Wallington, Smith, Pagnam, White, Savage.

Referee.—Mr. J. G. A. Sharpe, Lichfield.