

WATFORD WON.

Luton Lose by an Unsatisfactory Goal.

Luton Town players are feeling very sore about the goal that gave Watford the victory last Saturday; they think that but for the referee's mistake they would have brought away at least a point. We were not near enough to see whether the goal was good or bad, but the Town defenders were unanimous in their opinion that the ball was over the line before a second player touched it from the corner kick, and therefore a goal kick should have been given. Mr. Dawson certainly showed hesitation before making a decision, and this, following upon the trouble at Luton in the Reserve game with Southampton a fortnight ago, has not had the effect of enhancing the confidence of the Luton club in him. He lacks balanced judgment and promptitude. Last Saturday he

TOOK THE NAMES

of several Luton players, but not one Watford player, which indicates on the face of things that every Watford player gave a perfectly clean exhibition, and that nearly half of the Luton side did not. Well, there were about 2,000 Luton spectators present, and they know who was the first and worst offender. I am not saying that Luton always played the game—by no means. Neither did Watford, but the amount of writing the referee did in his book was uncalled for. The game was much cleaner, until the last quarter of an hour, than the average game, and we all enjoyed it.

Without admitting that Watford had any more of the play than the Town, I think they just about deserved to win because of the better work of their forwards. That was the only pull they had. The half-back lines were about level, but the Town had

A BETTER PAIR

of backs. Both goalkeepers were good, and although Williams was called upon more times than Gibbon, there was nothing like the sting in the test that he received as in that of Gibbon. The severest trial was a great shot from Walker that would have beaten a less brilliant keeper than Williams. On the other hand, Gibbon had at least half a dozen trying moments, and he acquitted himself well. Some were of opinion that he should have prevented the second goal, but if the referee had decided on a goal kick, many of the critics would probably have complimented him on his wisdom.

Our backs were the better pair, and with the exception of one occasion when he dallied, Tirrell was almost beyond fault. He is playing as well as ever he did, and his kicking and tackling were excellent. Lennon also did well, but he was inclined to get rattled when the Watford forwards showed bustling tactics. The halves maintained their high standard in defensive work, but the flanks were apt to converge and leave the wingers unattended. There was not much to choose. Walker made

GREAT EFFORTS

to win the game, and Foster and Jennings put in sterling work.

The forwards were clever individually. Thompson was not at his best by a long way, and lacked incision, but he met with misfortune early on. Hoar and Clarkson did fine work on the extremes, and both were well looked after by the inside men, for Butcher and Higginbotham were on their best behaviour as schemers and foragers, and won a lot of praise. The work, however, was not open enough, and the need of coaching in this respect was all too apparent. Not until the ball is kept more on the ground, however, shall we see good combination.

For Watford, Williams kept goal all right save for the misunderstanding with Toone, when the Luton goal was scored. Horsman and Gregory were not a very safe pair, for the former is as wild as ever; the veteran was the better. The middle men were big and strong, with Carter the pick, and of a strong forward line, Stephenson and Pagnam were a little better than the others.

THE GAME

was played before 10,500 spectators, who paid £675. The home team had slightly the better of the opening exchanges, and PAGNAM registered a grand goal after eleven minutes, shooting hard and low from twenty yards' range. Luton did better after this, and by swinging the ball about they gave considerable trouble, but the game was thirty minutes gone when CLARKSON headed the equalising goal following smart work by Butcher. Each goal had narrow escapes before the interval.

In the second half Luton had the better of the game for quite twenty minutes, and Watford's defence was kept busy, but a goal did not come. Then Watford got a corner, and this was well placed by Mummery, and the ball swerved into goal. It was impossible to see if any player touched the ball before it passed into the net, but the referee evidently thought that the ball was not over the line when it touched GIBBON'S leg, from which it went into the net.

Both sides had good chances spoilt before the end, and the closing stages were fought fiercely and sometimes unfairly, but there was no further score.

WATFORD	2 goals
LUTON TOWN	1 goal

WATFORD. — Williams; Horsman, Gregory; Toone, Strain, Carter; Stephenson, Smith, Pagnam, White, Mummery.

LUTON. — Gibbon; Lennon, Tirrell; Foster, Walker, Jennings; Hoar, Higginbotham, Thompson, Butcher, Clarkson.

Referee.—Mr. F. Dawson, London.