

WATFORD WHACKED.

LUTON TOWN'S FIRST WIN THIS YEAR.

By Crusader.

WATFORD made their customary great battle against LUTON TOWN last Saturday at Luton, and though they had to acknowledge defeat at the end, the margin was of the narrowest, and there were times in the last twenty minutes when it seemed "all Lombard-street to a china orange" that Watford would, at least, equalise. It was not to be, and the Town gained a victory that was deserved because for an hour they were the better side. None will dispute that in the first half, and for a portion of the second the Town worked with more method, and made by far the greater number of chances, but they failed to realise them, or the danger in the later period would not have been so pronounced.

EARLY FLUTTERS.

In the opening stages the Watford goal escaped in extraordinary fashion, and it would have surprised none if goals had been chalked up by Pointon, Rennie and Woods. In the case of the last-named, there was a great appeal for a goal, but the Watford defenders managed to scuffle the ball out when it seemed well over the line. Watford had chances, mainly because Parker hung well up the field, and two or three times he darted between the backs, but was either overhauled or beaten by the mud. Once he got the ball past Abbott when the latter had run out far, but Fraser dropped back and cleared before the old Millwall leader could get the ball for the final touch.

YARDLEY'S THRUSTS.

Yardley then made a great solo effort, beating man after man before passing to Rennie close in. The latter's shot struck Hewitt, and WOODS snapped up the ball and netted.

Then each goal had narrow escapes, and both Hewitt and Abbott made good saves before Yardley started on another voyage through the swamp. He passed forward to RENNIE, who appeared to be offside, to run in and beat Hewitt as the goal-keeper ran out. In the period before the change of ends both goals had the narrowest of escapes, and Hewitt was very fortunate indeed to scrape the ball away on several occasions.

Play was generally in the Watford half, and Dennis and Pointon often muddled well, but the inside forwards could not get the ball through. Once Ramage hit the bar with a glorious shot, and the ball ran across the line, but no forward was close enough to put it through. Still the lead was deserved at the interval, and, if anything, was a low estimate of the superiority of the Town.

LUTON	2
WATFORD	0

There was further rejoicing in the Luton camp three minutes after the restart, for YARDLEY got his foot to a rebound following a scramble in the Watford goal, and the Town were three goals ahead.

More escapes, and Hewitt made good saves, but the Town had their work cut out to frustrate the raids, usually led by the Watford wing men, and Abbott was several times called into action.

WATFORD'S GOALS.

It was the persistence of Daniels that led indirectly to Watford's first goal. He got a corner, and placed it fairly well. Parker met the ball with his head a little beyond the farther post, and SHEPPARD

promptly crashed it past Abbott. It was not then that the Town began to fall away. Had they scored again in the next minute they would have surprised nobody, for the ball hovered about the Watford goal for some minutes. However, the several chances were missed, and then Hills made a dashing sprint, swinging across a fine centre, and WARNER'S head bobbed up to deflect the ball past Abbott. Again the Town should have drawn farther ahead, but they could not find the way to beat Hewitt, though they often beat the backs.

THE CHALLENGE.

Watford then set up a hot attack, and with Graham off through being stunned after the ball had been kicked against his head by Abbott, Ramage did grand work alongside Till. Abbott made good saves, and only at infrequent intervals did the Town get away. The return of Graham synchronised with the loss of Dennis, and Luton played short-handed to the end, but they kept out the eager and excited opposition.

Abbott had no chance with the goals scored against him. He had less to do than Hewitt, but he did his work well. His backs were not certain of themselves in the first half, but they were tenacious and recovered well. Graham did good work at times, and Till, after a fluky start, gave a fine display of thoughtful defensive work in the closing stages, his tackling then being invaluable.

RAMAGE'S INFLUENCE.

Black played cleverly as usual, and had a better grip of Daniels and Sheppard than Fraser had of the other wing. Ramage was slowed up by the mud in which he had to operate, but he did fine work, and acted as a tonic when things were going hard with the side.

Fraser's best was in conjunction with his wing, but Hills was a rare handful for him. Of the forwards Yardley was the best. He worked tirelessly, and not only initiated the two goals of the first half, but made a lot of openings. Woods was not so successful as usual, though he kept Dennis employed, and Rennie was a trier, but his shooting was poor, as could be understood from the fact that he was squelching about in mud that was well over his ankles. Pointon did some clever things, and Dennis was often bringing danger by his sprints and centres.

WATFORD'S PROMISE.

Watford will be a good side when they have settled down. Hewitt is a promising young goalkeeper. The backs are experienced, and they were robust and energetic in kicking and tackling. Fuller played a skilful game at half, and his colleagues were resolute and resourceful. Hills and Daniels were speedy wingers, and were well fed by their partners: Parker was a great worker, but, like Rennie, he was hampered by the mud. There were 8,000 spectators.

LUTON TOWN	3
WATFORD	2

LUTON.—Abbott; Graham, Till; Black, Ramage, Fraser; Pointon, Yardley, Rennie, Woods, Dennis.

WATFORD. — Hewitt; Prior, Davison; Smith, Fuller, Jewitt; Hills, Warner, Parker, Sheppard, Daniels.

Referee.—H. Kilsby, West Bromwich.