

Date: 5 January 1895
 Opposition: Wednesday
 Competition: League

Mercury	Sheffield Independ.	

5
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THE SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM INDEPENDENT.
WEDNESDAY v. LIVERPOOL.

ANOTHER WIN FOR THE "BLADES."

After their brilliant victory over the famous Everton team on New Year's Day by 3 goals to 0, it was not surprising that the Wednesday should easily dispose of Liverpool, who are on form one of the weakest teams in the League. This the Sheffields accomplished at Olive Grove on Saturday, in the presence of some 6000 or 7000 people, winning by the decisive majority of 5 goals to 0, in spite of the fact that they had to take the field without Davis and Brash against a representative team of the visiting club. Davis was unable to play owing to an injury received in the Everton match, and Brash because of illness. Brady, by reason of a kick he had received on the ankle on New Year's Day, was not really fit to play, but he pluckily went on the field and did his best to assist in the victory of his side. Brandon was brought once more from right half-back thus letting in Petrie, and put outside right, Harry Woolhouse taking the centre position. The ground proved to be hard, slippery, and treacherous, and falls were dangerous. Play under the circumstances was not of a very high order, being somewhat slow, but the Wednesday men played distinctly the better game and well merited their success.

In the first half the Sheffields had just a suspicion of a breeze against them, but it was of little account. The visitors kicked off from the Heeley end. The game opened quietly and the first incident of much interest was a long dropping shot by Ferrier, which forced a fruitless corner from M'Cann. Ten minutes after the commencement a smart advance by the Wednesday right wing saw Ferrier centre to Spikesley, who promptly headed into the net and scored the first goal of the match, the point being awarded in spite of an appeal for off-side. The Sheffields continued to have the better of the play, and Petrie, with long shots, twice tested M'Cann. Then for a case of accidental hands about 15 yards from the Liverpool goal Wednesday were awarded a free-kick. Earp touched the ball to Brandon, who smartly shot through. The referee, however, disallowed the point, much to the disapproval of the spectators and the evident dislike of the home team, his reason being that the visitors' standing had been impeded. Wednesday showed considerable dash for a few minutes after this, but the visitors' defence remained firm. The home defence was several times tested, D. Hannah doing useful work, but the backs and halves were so safe that Allan was not troubled much. Crawshaw often proved too good for Bradshaw, and Jamieson proved a great stumbling block to the visitors' right wing, Petrie also doing well. Ferrier, who played a good game forward, once missed a capital chance by overrunning the ball, but a little later Spikesley passing judiciously to Woolhouse, the latter, with a straight shot, beat M'Cann and scored a second goal for the home side. After 28 minutes' play Wednesday were granted a free kick in midfield for Ross fouling Jamieson. Langley took the kick and dropped the ball well in front, whereupon Woolhouse neatly headed it into the net and gave the Sheffields a third point, the score at the interval therefore being:—Wednesday, 3; Liverpool, 0.

On resuming the home team at once made a sharp attack on the Liverpool goal, but Woolhouse shot high over the bar. From the goal kick the visitors worked their way to the other end, a corner being forced from Earp. This was well dropped, and Allan had to clear in a hurry, while a minute later, from another corner to the visitors, Woolhouse easily got the ball away. A cessation now took place owing to D. Hannah being hurt, and that player had to retire for a few

minutes. With a fresh start the home right wing worked the ball up prettily, and from a good centre by Brandon, Woolhouse just missed the mark. Hands against Liverpool close in appeared dangerous, but Brandon shot high over the bar. A clever bit of combination by the whole of the front rank forwards saw Woolhouse put in a grand shot which struck the upright and rebounded right across the goal mouth, M'Cann being clean beaten. No one was up to put the ball through, and a glorious chance was missed. Immediately following this, Brady had hard lines with a rattling long shot which just grazed the crossbar. The Wednesday halves were well nigh unbeatable, but at length the visitors got into Wednesday territory, and both Ross and Kerr missed good openings. The Liverpool defence were found plenty of work, but M'Lean and M'Que strove hard to keep their forwards employed. Another foul close in against Liverpool was only got away after a scuffle, and then play was transferred to the other end by a huge lunge by M'Queen, where Ross shot very wide of the mark from long range. A really smart bit of passing by the front rank saw Harry Brandon centre accurately, and Spikesley rushed the ball through for the fourth goal after 25 minutes' play. Three minutes later Spikesley received the ball from Woolhouse, and dodging a couple of opponents, planted the leather right in front of the goal mouth, where it was scrimmaged through, Harry Brandon doing the needful, the goalkeeper being slightly hurt in the charge. During this time D. Hannah had again gone off, Liverpool thus playing with ten men. Wednesday continued to have the best of matters, and once a fast low shot by Crawshaw was stopped on the line by M'Cann, and kicked away just in the nick of time by M'Queen. Once or twice the Liverpool forwards broke away, but Langley, Jamieson, and Crawshaw were generally in the way, and easily repelled these spasmodic attacks. Far different was the experience of the Liverpool defenders, who were constantly pressed, and although at times appearing a trifle slow, they kicked away in good style considering the state of the ground. Shortly before the finish Ferrier, who played a splendid game throughout for the winners, only just missed the mark with a fast high shot. M'Cann was loudly hooted for pulling Spikesley down heavily near the goal mouth, and the referee had to give a word of caution. Up to the finish the home team, thanks mainly to the splendid play of the half-backs, had much the best of the game, which resulted in an easy victory for Wednesday, as follows:—

WEDNESDAY 5 goals.
 LIVERPOOL 0 goal.

WEDNESDAY.—Allan, goal; Earp and Langley, backs; Petrie, Crawshaw, and Jamieson, half-backs; Brandon, Ferrier, Woolhouse, Brady, and Spikesley, forwards.

LIVERPOOL.—W. M'Cann, goal; A. B. Hannah and M. M'Queen, backs; J. M'Cartney, J. M'Que, and J. M'Lean, half-backs; Kerr, D. Hannah, T. H. Bradshaw, J. Ross, and M'Vean, forwards.

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Liverpool Mercury,

LIVERPOOL V. SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY.

The first meeting between these clubs took place at Olive-grove, Sheffield, on Saturday, before 7000 or 8000 spectators, in fine, but cold and frosty, weather. With the exception that Kerr replaced Drummond, the Liverpool team was identical with that which had so signally defeated West Bromwich Albion. Davis and Brash were absentees from the home team. The following were the players:—Liverpool: M'Cann, goal; Hannah and M. M'Queen, backs; M'Cartney, M'Que, and J. M'Lean, half-backs; M'Vean, Ross, Bradshaw, D. Hannah, and Kerr, forwards. Sheffield Wednesday: Allan, goal; Earp and Langley, backs; Petrie, Crawshaw, and Jamieson, half-backs; Brandon, Ferrier, Woolhouse, Brady, and Spikesley, forwards. The home team having won the choice of ends, elected to play with the wind, and Bradshaw, having started play, began to veer towards Allan. After that player had cleared, Kerr obtained and dashed down his wing, but was robbed when about to deliver his final pass. Play then ruded very even, Brady and his partner changing the venue, but being sent to the right-about by Hannah. In a trice, Ross, Bradshaw, and M'Vean participated in a fine attack, which Langley spoiled just in time. M'Cann was then called upon by Spikesley, and had to concede a fruitless corner. The Sheffields then showed signs of improvement, and at the end of ten minutes Spikesley wound up a fine piece of forward play by heading Ferrier's pass past M'Cann, the referee paying no attention to a strong claim of offside. Liverpool next tried to force their way through, but Crawshaw was a veritable thorn against the Liverpool centre, and Petrie was responsible for a high shot over the bar. A foul then fell to the home club close in, and Earp and Brandon between them shot into the net, but as the ball had not made a complete turn, the referee disallowed the point. The home team now had a big pull over their opponents, and looked like scoring on several occasions. At length Kerr had a chance, which he pulled in finely, but Allan caught the ball and cleared. Following a corner granted by M'Lean, M'Vean and Ross essayed to break the monotony, but Earp came across and sent the leather to Spikesley, who, with Brady, ran down the left, the former driving across the goal-mouth in nice fashion, enabling Woolhouse to add a second goal. Directly afterwards Liverpool suffered further disaster, as from a free kick in midfield the ball fell on the back of Woolhouse's head and rolled through as M'Queen charged him. This brought half-time, and upon resuming Liverpool showed up a little better, there being more cohesion among the forwards. The game became very open, both sides claiming equal play, till Hannah was injured, and although this player returned for a little while, he was practically useless. Then the home team came dashing down in almost resistless style, and by a stroke of good fortune scored two other goals, one of which was as near offside as could be imagined. A rather sensational game resulted in the thorough discomfiture of Liverpool by 5 goals to nil.

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Liverpool's performances during the past week have partaken of the two extremes. The fine and inspiring victory over West Bromwich Albion was discounted by the farcical show at Olive Grove, for certainly the first-mentioned game was the best display this season, and of an equal certainty was last Saturday's game the very worst exhibition so far. Not one of the Liverpool players came up to his usual standard, with the exception, perhaps, in the last quarter of an hour of M'Vean, who then put in some honest work, but the whole team were thoroughly out of gear, and whether it was indifference on their part or want of condition the fact remains that the proceedings were nothing to their credit. Some of the players lay a portion of blame upon the state of the ground and their inability to keep their feet, but their opponents did not seem to be the least inconvenienced by the frost, and this requires some explaining. The chief fault lay with the defence in the first half, who seemed utterly unequal to cope with the concerted work of the opposing attack. This allowed the Sheffelders to get into a nice, confident swing, which afterwards could not be broken up. The injury, too, to Hannah came at a most inopportune time, as just about then the Liverpool men were having the best of the argument, and there is no telling what might have happened, as the home team were then leading only by three goals, and Liverpool were playing with the wind. To those who witnessed the match on Tuesday and again saw the game on Saturday with Sheffield Wednesday, it is really nothing short of marvellous how such a transformation should take place in the brief period. M'Cann in goal was very shaky, and it is evident that this fine player is not taking care of himself. Hannah, for a wonder, was also out of it, his kicking and tackling being as weak as water. M'Queen was erratic and brilliant in turn, a couple of clearances in the second half being very fine indeed. M'Cartney and J. M'Lean, as usual, plodded untiringly, but were not so successful owing to the feebleness of the other part of the contingent. M'Que had an off-day, but as this so seldom occurs he cannot be reproached. Forward, Bradshaw was so well attended to by Crawshaw, who appeared to have a special interest in the Liverpool player, that he was never in evidence throughout the game. Ross and M'Vean worked along very prettily now and then, but with such a striker as Jamieson, and also Langley, behind to oppose, little surprise was evinced that they failed to create anything but a temporary diversion. Kerr exhibited a fondness for dribbling, and did not fall in with his partner at all, but showed up with greater advantage in the last portion of the game. Davie Hannah, it is feared, has met with a severe accident. The doctor who attended to him on the ground would not declare till he saw him again later on whether his lower ribs were broken or not. Anyhow it will be some time before this genial player will resume his position. One and all of the Sheffield team deserve praise for their excellent work. Although short of their fine centre (Davis) and Brash (outside right), they worked harmoniously and confidently throughout, and looked winners almost from the start. If any are deserving of prominence more than others it is Crawshaw, whose play at centre half was unique, and Ferrier, the small but first-class inside right, who seemed always to do the right thing at the right moment. Harry Woolhouse, the second team centre, can also be voted a distinct success.

While writing of the Liverpool players, mention must be made of the sudden and greatly-regretted death of Mr. John Dermott, who has been closely associated with football almost since the park days. Especially did he appreciate the society of the players—and it goes without saying that he was more than liked by them; and being one who regularly travelled with the team—both with Everton before the disunion and since with Liverpool—he was a well-known character in football centres. His cheeriness and generosity were a chief characteristic, and his personality and figure will be greatly missed in the Liverpool camp, which can ill afford to lose such a true sportsman.