

Date: 21 March 1896
Opposition: Burton Swifts
Competition: League

Mercury

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Liverpool Mercury,

LIVERPOOL v. BURTON SWIFTS.

The return engagement of these two clubs attracted, to the utter surprise of everybody, the very respectable gate of 5000 spectators. Both sides were fairly well represented, and on the visitors starting with the wind, but against the sun, the play was at once taken up by Allan and his supports, and barely five minutes had elapsed ere a shot from the left wing, apparently from Bradshaw, had opened the score. Giving their opponents no breathing space, the Liverpool vanguard bore down again and again on Jones's charge, which after ten minutes' play was reduced by M'Vean with a splendid effort. Prior to this last point Ross had left the field injured, and his absence was shortly afterwards felt, for the Liverpool forwards seemed for a spell totally unable to get into the nice swing they opened with, and as the result of a corner, grandly worked by Sorley and Willocks, West reduced the lead against his side. Before half-time arrived Bradshaw had again broken down his opponents' defence with a splendid fast shot, and on resuming the game became even more one-sided than before, the Liverpool eleven being able to do almost as they liked with the ball, and Allan, Ross, and M'Que in turn added other goals to their already big record. Although requested earnestly by the spectators for "two more," the game finally ended in an extremely easy victory for the Anfielders by 6 goals to 1.

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Liverpool, by their decisive victory on Saturday, almost completed the coveted 100 goals for the season ended. That they will do so now is practically assured, for the necessary two goals should be easily obtained next week at the expense of Crewe Alexandra. With a little luck added to several efforts of the forwards, Bradshaw's in particular near the end of the game, the score could easily have been recorded in double figures. The visitors were a less skilful team "from stem to stern" than the Liverpudlians, and beyond some very fair combination by the left wing and centre, the remainder of the team can be passed over almost unnoticed. Almost entirely the Liverpool forwards were in possession of the play, and to this end they owed much to the splendid backing up they received from their own half-back line, and, as a consequence, the play was generally carried on in the vicinity of Jones's charge. All round the Liverpool team were in great running trim, Storer excelling himself with two capital saves when in uncommonly tight and difficult positions. Goldie gave a rare exhibition of clean kicking, speedy running, and effective tackling. He made but one miss in the match, while by his fine speed he was of great assistance to his side when Dunlop was beaten. The latter played an improved game, but was very much off in his right foot kicking. If the ball came to his left foot he was all right, but generally failed to send the leather in the required direction when using his right foot. Each of the middle trio of the eleven did yeoman service, M'Que if anything standing out in greater relief than the others. Both Cleghorn and Battles, however, played a very fine game, and Liverpool are fortunate in having the command of such able defenders. The ex-Rover did not seem to be up to his usual trim, however, and, highly as he pleased the spectators, there is much better worth to be given by this player when he has settled down with the team. The whole of the forwards were in splendid humour, and were to the Swifts quite unbeatable. A tendency to hang on to the ball and overdo the passing business was at times noticeable, but this was relieved by the magnificent individual dashes of first one and then another of the forwards. In this department Bradshaw easily took the lead, and was rather harshly served in not having other goals to his credit.

Preparations for M'Que's benefit on Easter Monday morning are being carried out in a most promising manner. The visitors, Burnley, are to be represented by their full cup team, who this week have to contest with the Rovers for a place in the final tie of the Lancashire Cup competition, and as the hour of the match is a convenient one, the splendid services of the favourite half-back of the Liverpool club ought to be duly considered and recognised.