

Date: 4 November 1899
 Opposition: Sheffield United
 Competition: League

Mercury	Sheff. Independent	

4 November
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Liverpool Mercury,

LIVERPOOL v. SHEFFIELD UNITED.

The present leaders of the League made their second visit to the city, and their coming aroused considerable interest, quite 15,000 persons congregating to witness what proved an extremely interesting game. The teams under the guidance of Mr. Barker were as follow:—Liverpool; Storer, goal; Stevenson and Dunlop, backs; Wilson, Raisbeck, and Howell, half-backs; Cox, Walker, Hunter, Morgan, and Robertson, forwards. Sheffield United: Foulkes, goal; Thickett and Boyle, backs; Johnson, Morren, and Howard, half-backs; Moran, Beers, Hedley, Almond, and Priest, forwards. Liverpool lost the toss, but quickly forced the play, an unsuccessful corner resulting from a clever movement on the left wing. Even work followed for some time, until at length Priest headed into Storer's hands after neat passing, and feeble returns by the home backs let in the visitors, Hedley driving over the bar from close quarters. Liverpool were near scoring from a free kick, but both Walker and Hunter missed a nice opening, and the ball was sent to safer quarters. Alternating play followed, a clever run by Priest being neutralised by similar work on the home right, but Cox's final effort went wide. For some time the halves held the upper hand, but from a long return, Stevenson missed his kick, and Storer came out to clear. He failed, however, and the ball was sent across to Beers, who banged it into the net before the custodian could return. Restarting, Liverpool were awarded a free kick, and Stevenson tipped the ball to Raisbeck, who shot in, and Hunter helped it forward, thus equalising. Liverpool now held the advantage, and pressure on the United goal followed, but their backs relieved. A centre from Cox was met by Morgan, whose shot just missed taking effect, and a moment later Robertson shot straight at Foulkes, who throw away. A burst on the United right enabled Johnson to shoot over the bar, and close on the interval the home forwards broke away in nice style, but Foulkes rushed out and cleared. At half-time the score was one goal each, and for some considerable time after resuming neither side was able to make much headway. The visitors were often dangerous on account of their sudden rushes, and on one occasion Wilson conceded a corner, which was with difficulty cleared. Liverpool were compelled to act on the defensive, but a long kick by Wilson to midfield relieved the pressure, and Robertson racing up, pounced on the ball, rounded Thickett, and steadying himself, scored with a splendid shot that gave Foulkes no chance whatever. The United were kept back, and from a bouncing shot Boyle, in trying to clear, sent into his own goal, Foulkes just reaching the ball in time to clear. As time passed on the Blades strove hard, and Dunlop

unaccountably missing his kick, a score appeared certain, when Wilson dashed in and cleared. Another weak return a moment later let in the visitors again, and Hedley this time made no mistake, equalising with a clever shot. United now pressed, and from a grand centre by Priest, Beers drove the ball in but struck the upright, a case of hard luck for the visitors, as Storer could not possibly have reached the ball. However, no further scoring followed, and the final result was

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THE SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM INDEPENDENT.

LIVERPOOL v. SHEFFIELD UNITED.

United Still Undefeated.

Last season's results:—

At Liverpool, Liverpool won by 2 to 1.

At Sheffield, Liverpool won by 2 to 0.

Probably on the assumption that the fortunes of football war must change at some time or other Liverpool was a big "tip" for the game which took place at Anfield road on Saturday, and when it is considered that a couple of changes had to be made in the Cup-holders' team, which had so far done so well for the United, there certainly appeared reason on the side of the tipsters. Liverpool had their best eleven available, Storer again taking his usual position in goal; the Sheffields were without their clever and versatile captain, Needham, who was representing Sheffield against Glasgow, whilst Bennett was also unavoidably absent, their places being filled by Harry Howard and Moran respectively. Though weakened by the absence of the players named the Sheffield brigade made no secret of their determination to reverse last season's result, when the United were beaten by two goals to one on the same enclosure. On the other hand Liverpool had got over their long spell of bad luck, and being now in a winning vein their supporters had every confidence in the Liverpoolians annexing a couple of points at the expense of the leaders of the League. Saturday morning opened fine, but a drizzling rain began to fall some time before the time announced for the kick-off, and the ground was on the soft side. There would probably be 20,000 spectators present. In the absence of Needham Thickett captained the United team, and commenced well by winning the toss, which enabled him to defend the goal at the Oakfield road end, Liverpool having to face a slight breeze and the drizzling rain. Hunter kicked off, but a fine bit of work by Almond let in Priest, who pulled the ball too square in centring, and the danger was cleared by Dunlop, who punted magnificently up the field. From a free-kick in mid-field Dunlop drove the ball straight amongst a rack of players, Foulke having to concede a corner-kick to clear. This was well placed, but Morren got the ball away, only to find it returned over the cross-bar at express speed. Following this a warm attack was made on the Liverpool goal, and Storer twice had to save in a hurry, Priest and Almond being particularly busy. Dunlop clearing finely from the left winger after he had caused Storer to save. A free-kick in mid-field against Boyle looked like giving trouble, but Morren headed away smartly. Raisbeck, who was playing a fine game headed back, but the pressure was at length relieved. A long pass out by Almond was converted into a corner by Wilson, Morren heading over the cross-bar from the flag kick. Thickett dashed in in fine style and stopped his opponents as they came down in line, and from his return Dunlop made a bad mistake, but fortunately for his side recovered himself in time to repair it, with Beers almost on the top of him, Raisbeck eventually sending the ball well forward. The game was being hotly contested, and

occasionally the referee had to step in and interfere, fouls being pretty frequent, though it must be admitted that the slippery turf had something to do with this. A tussle between Moran and Howell was ended by the referee giving a free kick against the United. The ball was well placed by Dunlop, and with the United backs beaten Morgan appeared to have a fine opening, but Johnson dashed in and cleared in fine style. This was immediately followed by a corner kick, but the United defence prevailed. Moran was doing some tricky work on the wing, but failed to part with the ball at the proper moment, with the result that he was several times easily robbed, though on one occasion Dunlop had to kick into touch in a hurry to clear from the right winger. Beers next essayed a run on his own, but Howell tripped him up, the ensuing free kick not being put to any good use. The game had been in progress close on 20 minutes when a mistake by Stevenson let in the Sheffields, and the ball coming out to Beers from Priest, the first-named beat Storer with a grand fast shot, which gave the Liverpool custodian no chance. The Sheffields did not retain their lead long, as a minute later, from a free kick against Boyle, Raisbeck placed the ball to Morgan, who gave Hunter a fine opening, the Liverpool centre beating Foulke with a grand shot. From the centre kick Liverpool again came away, and Foulke had to handle a fast shot, following which Hedley was brought down by Raisbeck when in full sail for goal, but from the free-kick Beers headed the wrong way. After two free kicks against the United, the referee had to caution Wilson for a dirty trick against Priest. A fine return by Dunlop enabled Robertson to get away on the wing, and he finished up by forcing a corner kick off Thickett, and although the flag kick was well placed, Johnson was the first to get his head to it, and cleared cleverly. Liverpool were displaying any amount of energy, with Raisbeck doing a lot of good work both in defence and attack, and from one bustling assault on the United goal Morgan missed the mark by inches only. A free kick against Boyle caused play to be again in the vicinity of the United goal, and after Foulke had conceded an unproductive corner kick from a fine shot by Robertson, Raisbeck caused the same custodian to tip the ball over the bar from a deceiving bearing shot, but the ensuing corner was not improved upon. Another free kick was given against Wilson, who tripped Almond when he was in full sail for goal, but from the free kick Beers shot just the wrong side of the post. Just before half-time the United made determined efforts to regain their lost lead, but Wilson, Raisbeck, and Howell drove them back, and half-time was called with the score one goal each.

Immediately on resuming, Boyle had to kick out, and from the ensuing throw in Johnson conceded a corner kick, which was grandly cleared by Foulke. Smart work by Hedley and Almond enabled Priest to make a run half the length of the field, Stevenson kicking out when hard pressed. A strong attack by Liverpool ended in Foulke clearing well, though badly hampered, whilst once Morgan shot right across the goal mouth. At the other end, the United made a spirited attack, during which Wilson conceded them a corner kick, which was not, however, improved upon. From another bustling attack by the United, Beers headed just over the bar with Storer practically beaten, thus missing a good chance. With the United attacking, and only Boyle in his own half of the field, Raisbeck lunged the ball on to the left wing, where Robertson was lying well out by himself. Although fully half a dozen yards off-side, he was allowed to go on, and in the end from rather short range, with Foulke at one end of the goal, the Liverpool player sent the ball low and rather slowly into the opposite corner, Foulke being powerless. This was a distinctly lucky point for the Anfielders, but the crowd went mad with delight at the prospects of two more points. The United

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had gradually fallen off in form, and for a few minutes the defence was a bit shaky. Long kicking and passing was the order of the day, but hercabouts an amusing incident occurred. Cox had scarcely touched the ball for about a quarter of an hour, but at length it came to him just as the whistle had gone for a foul. The Liverpool man evidently did not hear the signal, as he went straight for goal all on his own. When nearing Foulke, the United custodian dashed out and stopped his shot, what time the spectators looked on amused. From this point the United rapidly improved, and following a free-kick and a caution to Robertson, a well-sustained attack was made on the Liverpool goal, a shot from the right wing narrowly missing scoring, the ball passing only inches outside the post. The Sheffield left wing was working desperately hard, and a fine centre by Priest proved a shade too fast for Beers. The slashing onslaughts of the Sheffielders were well met by the opposing defence, who were struggling gamely to keep their lead. Dunlop, Raisbeck, and Wilson being especially prominent, and the work done by the centre-half was of the highest order. A weak clearance by Dunlop sent the ball to Hedley, who, from fully twenty yards range, put in a beautiful shot which clean beat Storer, a feat which was heartily recognised by the Sheffielders present. Inspired by this success, the United again attacked fiercely, and following good work by Almond and Priest, the latter tested Storer with a capital shot, which the Liverpool custodian did well to clear even at the expense of a corner, from which Moran came very near scoring. The game was now being desperately fought out, and the backs on both sides were found plenty of work. Once Priest forced a corner kick, but the referee overruled the linesman's decision, and from the goal kick the home team made tracks for the Sheffield goal, where first Thickett and then Boyle stopped them. Three times after this Storer was called upon, and right well

did the Liverpool man respond, twice saving marvellously with the United forwards crowding round. There was plenty of excitement at this juncture, and when Howard, in trying to clear from a dangerous rush by the home forwards, screwed the ball into his own goal mouth, another point for Liverpool seemed certain, but with a grand effort Foulke got the ball away. After this for a few minutes the ball was repeatedly put out on the United left wing, play being kept in the Sheffield half. A shot by Walker was well cleared by Boyle, and shortly afterwards Hedley essayed a single-handed run, but being hard pressed, he shot from rather long range, the ball passing over the crossbar. The Liverpool forwards had evidently shot their bolt, and Johnson (who played a most determined game), Morren, and Howard kept them pretty well in check. Just before the close, the Liverpool defenders had two or three anxious moments, Moran once missing by inches, whilst directly afterwards Beers had the hardest of hard lines, sending in a terrific shot which hit the inside of one of the uprights and rebounded into the centre, with Storer close to the other post helplessly beaten. The United made another desperate attack before the close, but no more scoring was done, the game ending in a draw. Considering the recent form displayed by the Liverpool men, the United are to be congratulated on bringing a point away from Anfield road, but at the same time the Sheffielders were unlucky in not bringing the full complement of points away. The second goal scored by Liverpool was glaringly off-side, and the referee was only one of a very meagre minority who thought the goal a legitimate one. This was enough to take the heart out of most teams, and certainly for a time it had a bad effect on the Sheffielders, who just at

this point missed the influence and guidance of Needham. However, as in several other matches, they came again, and after Hedley had equalised with a beautiful shot they came very near to winning. Their pluck, determination, and stamina were greatly in evidence in the last few minutes, and though a bit lucky, the Liverpool men accomplished a capital performance in keeping the Sheffielders from scoring from their brilliant rushes. For the United, Foulke kept out some stinging shots, but was not at his best, one or two of his saves being weak. Thickett played a dashing game, his timely rushes being of great service to his side. Boyle, though suffering from the effects of a bad ankle, defended very well, but once or twice was not over particular in his methods, and came under the notice of the referee on one occasion. In the half-back line Morren was in his happiest vein, and was continually hobbing up when least expected, defending grandly, and using his best endeavours to keep the forwards going. Johnson played a great game, getting through any amount of work; whilst Howard also worked very hard, but shone better in defence than attack. The left wing was more dangerous than the right, Almond doing remarkably well in the first half. Hedley had a fine player to meet in Raisbeck, and came off fairly well. Beers, in addition to scoring the first goal and having terribly hard lines at the finish in not giving his side the winning goal, worked both hard and cleverly, and was more than once useful in defence. Moran played very trickily, but at times dwelled on the ball too long, instead of hanging it across to the centre. For Liverpool, Storer gave a fine display of goalkeeping, and could not be blamed for either of the goals that were scored. Dunlop made a couple of mistakes, but otherwise his kicking was of a very high order, and Stevenson makes him a capital partner. Raisbeck was the best man on his side, and played grand football from start to finish. Wilson is a go-a-head half-back, and though at times rather dirty, is a very useful man for his side. Howell did a lot of capital work, but was not so prominent as we have seen him. Robertson is a speedy and clever forward, and shoots well, but has a failing to lay off-side, though this fault gave Liverpool a much-needed point on Saturday. Morgan is a very unselfish partner, and Hunter gives promise of making a good centre. Walker did very well, but Cox, especially in the second half, was sadly neglected, and did not get his fair share of work. Better matches have been played at Anfield road, but very few have been more exciting in the closing stages of the game, when the score stood:—

SHEFFIELD UNITED 2 goals.
 LIVERPOOL 2 goals.

LIVERPOOL.—Storer, goal; Stevenson and Dunlop, backs; Wilson, Raisbeck, and Howell, half-backs; Cox, Walker, Hunter, Morgan, and Robertson, forwards.

UNITED.—Foulke, goal; Thickett and Boyle, backs; Johnson, Morren, and Howard, half-backs; Moran, Beers, Hedley, Almond, and Priest, forwards.
 Referee: Mr. A. J. Barker, Hanley.

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Liverpool Mercury,

AND LIVERPOOL, GENERAL AND GENERAL AFFAIRS.

Although coming desperately near it, Liverpool failed to vanquish the present leaders of the League, and, after a hard-fought contest, the result was a draw. Weakness amongst the home backs resulted in the United scoring their first goal, and a similar occurrence, after Liverpool had not only equalised but put themselves ahead, gave the Blades their second goal. On the play, however, there was little to choose between the teams, but after securing the second goal Liverpool appeared to have their opponents well in hand, and to their blundering and the activity of the United forwards, who were ever on the alert to pounce on a stray chance and make the best of it, must be attributed the partial success of the Anfield brigade. The latter as at present constituted seems to be represented by the best combination the club possesses, and, though a long way from the high-water mark of last season, should render a good account of itself, and rapidly bring the club from its present lowly position. The display against the United was a distinct improvement upon anything seen from them this season, and only a couple of unfortunate blunders prevented them from annexing the full quota of points. They commenced the contest in a spirited manner, and, keeping up the pace throughout, were quite as dangerous as their opponents in the closing stages. They have evidently discovered the fallacy of being considered a 20 minutes team, and went all the way in meritorious fashion. The teams were so evenly matched that in no department could one side claim a decided superiority over the other, though the United forwards were more go-ahead in their tactics than the home front line. The defence was more erratic, and, though excellent work was accomplished, this was interspersed with some most inexcusable blunders, the repeated missing of a kick and the return to an opponent not many yards ahead being noticeable. Particularly was this the case on the Liverpool side, and a mistake by Stevenson in the first half and Dunlop in the second were utilised to the fullest extent by the Blades. The Liverpool forwards gave a decidedly improved display, and if they could only dispense with that hesitancy in making off with the ball would doubtless prove more effective. On the right wing Cox was a great offender in this respect. True, he was severely neglected in the second half, but when he was obliged with the ball there was altogether too much dallying and useless pottering about, instead of getting away immediately on receipt, to cause the United defenders much uneasiness. In this respect the Blades furnished a striking contrast, for

no sooner did they obtain possession than away they darted with the ball, and, instead of finessing until surrounded by opposing defenders, were away amongst the full backs ere the latter were fairly ready for their advances. Moran was a conspicuous exception, and, clever though the ex-Celtic man undoubtedly is, the ready dash of the other four was worth bushels of his trickery. Although not an ideal centre forwards, Hunter has one thing in his favour—he dispenses with the ball impartially, wastes no time in useless finessing, and is about the most practicable man in this position that Liverpool possess at present. Robertson treated the crowd to a few old-time sprints, and the left wing monopolised the bulk of the attack, for Walker was very laborious in his movements, and Cox appeared unable to get away without a great effort. The halves worked energetically, but spoiled much good work by rash passing at the finish. Wilson is a rare trier, and does not hesitate to dash into a horde of attackers so long as he checks the advance. His utility in this respect is most marked, and he saved what appeared a certain goal in this manner, though a moment afterwards another weak return was better utilised by the United, and his previous clever clearance was somewhat neutralised. Raisbeck also rendered useful assistance, and more nearly approached his well-known effectiveness, but Howell is scarcely himself yet. The backs were erratic—at times really clever, at others feeble. Their kicking was neither so judicious nor strong as could have been desired, and, as before mentioned, both the visitors' goals were the immediate result of blunders on their part. Storer did exceptionally well in goal, and, whilst there might be some question as to the advisability of his running out to attempt to clear the first shot which scored, he had no possible chance with the second. The chief feature of the United forwards was the go-ahead methods adopted, for when once in possession they made no mistake as to their intentions. Beers is a grand forward, and Priest a capable outside left, whilst Hedley did well in the centre. The halves were effective, but Johnson was the pick of the bunch, and, further behind, neither Foulkes nor the backs increased or detracted from their reputation. At full strength—for it must be borne in mind Sheffield were without Needham, Bennett, and Field—the leaders will take some moving from their present position. On the other hand, Liverpool should quickly change their location.