

Date: 19 October 1896
 Opposition: Sheffield United
 Competition: League

Mercury	Sheffield Independ.	

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THE SHEFFIELD AND ROTHERHAM INDEPENDENT.

SHEFFIELD UNITED v. LIVERPOOL.

A KEEN CONTEST.

A splendid struggle was witnessed at Bramall lane yesterday afternoon between Sheffield United and Liverpool, who have both been doing admirably in the League competition this season. The fact that victory would give United the leadership of the League if achieved, and the high reputation of the visiting team made the contest particularly attractive, and some 7000 people visited the ground to see what proved to be a very interesting game. Both clubs were powerfully represented, and after a match full of incident and excitement the result proved to be a draw of one goal each. The effect of this was that the Sheffielders failed to gain the first place in the League table, for, although exactly equalling Bolton Wanderers in points, they have a slightly inferior goal average, and, therefore, remain in possession of the second position. Both teams gave a capital exhibition of football, but on the day's play the greater share of credit belongs to the Liverpool team, who, playing away from home, did a grand performance in taking a point out of the club that on Saturday had beaten Everton at Goodison Park. The visitors, too, had certainly the better of the play, and their combination, especially amongst the forwards, was better than that of the Sheffielders, whilst they had quite as much dash. The United defence were harder put to it than in any previous match on their own ground this season, and they have greatly to thank Foulkes, their goal-keeper, that they were not beaten. Although the home forwards made fewer attacks than did the visitors they were quite as dangerous when near goal, and Storer had several very difficult shots to stop, the Liverpool custodian doing his work in a smart and clever style. Yates played a capital game for United on the outside right, his runs and centring being very good. Amongst the halves Howell was particularly prominent, playing a sound and untiring game. In Ross and McVean, who proved a very effective right wing for Liverpool, Needham quite met his match, and in the second half Bradshaw, the visitors' outside left wing, showed brilliant and tricky play. The pace was a hot one, and in the concluding stages after the scores had been equalised, the players on both sides, being wearied with their previous exertions, seemed to rest on their oars, and the finish of a great game was rather tame.

Liverpool won the toss, and chose the goal at the Shoreham street end of the ground. By this selection they had just a breath of wind behind them, but it was so slight as to be of no assistance. The visitors soon began to force the pace, and initiated a series of attacks on the United goal, Ross once sending in a grand shot which greatly tested Foulkes's skill. The home custodian, however, just got his hand to the ball as it was sailing under the bar, and it was got away by the backs. The visitors for some minutes had decidedly the better of the play, but at length the Sheffielders' right wing got away in sprightly style, and Yates sent in a grand screw, which sent the ball across the front of goal, and just wide. Back again soon came the Liverpoolians, and Foulkes had to pick up and throw away, whilst subsequently Ross tried a long low shot, which was wide of the mark. The game was now grandly contested, and Priest racing away on the United left centred well, and Henderson put in

a fast-shot, which only a smart bit of goal-keeping by Storer prevented taking effect. The Sheffielders, undismayed at this failure, soon went on the warpath again, with the result that from a pass by Yates Henderson beat Storer, and scored the first goal for United after 14 minutes' play. This success of the home team was received with loud cheers, and encouraged by it the Sheffielders made other dashing attacks, Yates on one occasion giving Storer a long, low fast-shot to deal with. Before long Liverpool responded with great vigour, and their right wing proving too clever for Cain the home goal underwent several dangerous assaults, Michael finding Foulkes all his work to save on two occasions. For a time the ball remained in the United half, and when at length Almond essayed to get away he was off-side. Again the visitors pressed, and from a run and centre by Bradshaw M'Cartney missed a good opening by shooting wide. Play kept dangerously near the Sheffielders' goal, and Liverpool had a corner. But United's defence was good, and at length Yates, making a sprint to the other end, and centring, Almond headed over. A corner to United was not utilised. Liverpool were soon busy attacking again, their play being very good, and M'Cartney only missed scoring by a few inches. There was not much to choose in the play of the opposing teams, and the match was well contested and exciting. Foulkes saved from Allan, and then the United right wing dashed to the other end, only to be driven back by a foul against them. Smart play by Bradshaw on the Liverpool left, and Yates on the United right, were the chief features of the play at this period. Play, which had been fast, calmed down slightly as half-time drew near. Near the interval Liverpool attacked in dangerous fashion, and Neill tested Foulkes with a capital shot from half-back. With Yates rushing for the Liverpool goal the whistle sounded for half-time, which arrived with the score—

Sheffield United 1 goal.
 Liverpool 0 goal.

The light was dull when the second half was commenced. Liverpool began with great dash, their forwards playing also with good combination. Two minutes after change of ends M'Vean put the ball through the United goal, but the point was disallowed for Foulkes being illegally charged. After this the Sheffielders played up with great vigour; there were several scrimmages near the visitors' goal. The danger was, however, averted by sound defence, and tricky play by Bradshaw, who was cheered, took the ball to the other end, where, in a fierce attack on the United goal, Foulkes, after he had saved in the nick of time was injured. After a brief rest, however, the home custodian was able to resume. A little later there was another stoppage owing to Yates being hurt by Wilkie. The United forward also was able to continue. Liverpool redoubled their efforts to score, and the Sheffielders very rarely crossed the half-way line at this period of the game. The visitors were certainly playing the better football, and did the more attacking. United, however, were usually dangerous when they got away, and on one occasion Hammond shaved the cross-bar. During a threatening assault by the Liverpoolians Morren, the United centre half, accidentally slipping, and hurting his knee, had to be assisted from the field. This was when the second half had been in progress about 20 minutes. The player was, however, off the field only a few minutes. There were many fouls during the game, both sides being guilty. Play was very interesting, for with United only a goal ahead, and Liverpool doing the most pressing, the result was anything but a certainty. For a time the Sheffielders had a fair share of the play, and struggled manfully to keep the lead they had got. Their defence was good, and they confined themselves chiefly to defensive tactics, with an occasional dash away on the wings. The Liverpoolians on the other hand made great efforts to equalise, and when they

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succeeded about a quarter of an hour from the finish they only got what their play throughout the game deserved. This was a well got goal, Bradshaw sending the ball, with a low shot, through the corner of the goal, after McVean had centred well from the right. This equalising point was rewarded with cheers, and now the game grew very exciting, as each side strove hard for the winning goal. Ross gave Foulkes a stinging shot to stop, and Yates at the other end did the like to Storer, both custodians making their saves cleverly. The light was now very bad, and the concluding stages of the play were not easy to follow by the on-lookers. Foulkes had another shot to deal with—a low, slow one. Three minutes from time Bradshaw made a sprint down the Liverpool left, and from his centre a corner was forced, but this was badly kicked, and after a little quiet play the game ended almost in darkness in a tie—

SHEFFIELD UNITED 1 goal.

LIVERPOOL 1 goal.

SHEFFIELD UNITED.—Foulkes, goal; Whitham and Cain, backs; Howell, Morren, and Needham, half-backs Yates, Henderson, Almond, Hammond, and Priest, forwards.

LIVERPOOL.—Storer, goal; Wilkie and Goldie, backs; Holmes, Neill, and McCartney, half-backs; Bradshaw, Michael, Allan, Ross, and McVean, forwards.

Referee: Mr. Strawson, Lincoln.

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Liverpool Mercury

LIVERPOOL v. SHEFFIELD UNITED.

After their defeat by Sunderland the Liverpoolians journeyed to York, where the week-end was enjoyably spent. The team travelled to Sheffield yesterday morning, for the second match of the tour, to meet the hitherto undefeated United eleven. Both teams were the same as the previous Saturday, and when Mr. Strawn, Lincoln, had arranged the preliminaries, the men faced each other as follows:—Liverpool: Storer, goal; Godie and Wilkie, backs; M'Cartney, Neill, and Holmes, half backs; M'Vean, Ross, Allan, Michael, and Bradshaw, forwards. Sheffield United: Foulkes, goal; Whitham and Cain, backs; Howell, Moran, and Neatham, half backs; Yates, Henderson, Almond, Hammond, and Priest, forwards. Liverpool won the toss, and for some time held the advantage, a smart sprint by Bradshaw being followed by a beautiful shot from Ross, which Foulkes cleverly fisted out. The Liverpoolians were going in really fine style, and repeatedly got the better of their opponents, the forwards showing dashing form from the commencement. The United then had a turn at attacking, and a dangerous centre from Yates whizzed across the goal mouth, and following this Henderson gave Storer a terrific shot at close range, which was brilliantly saved. After Liverpool had visited their opponents' territory Yates got away, and going down in fine style passed to Henderson, who registered a beautiful goal, ten minutes from the start. United then attacked strongly, and Yates gave Storer a stinger; but Liverpool were next dangerous, and Ross and Michael in turn tested Foulkes with a couple of warm shots, which were cleverly cleared. Continuing the pressure Liverpool narrowly escaped scoring from a melee in goal, but had decidedly the best of the game, United breaking away only occasionally, and Henderson being particularly prominent in these rushes. Playing in dashing fashion Bradshaw raced along, and Whitham returning his centre, M'Cartney only missed by inches with a very fast shot. Yates was prominent with numerous fine centres, and then Allan and Bradshaw got away finely, but the former's shot at close range was neatly cleared by Foulkes. The United attack rested mostly on the right wing, and Yates in particular distinguished himself, but the display of the Sheffielders was marred by the great number of fouls against them. Liverpool were having most of the game, though the home backs were playing in determined fashion, and prevented their opponents from shooting strongly, and first Michael and then Bradshaw placed over the bar. Another fine sprint by Yates looked dangerous, when the referee blew his whistle for half time, just as Storer saved the outside winger's final effort, the score being 1 goal to nil in favour of the United. On resuming play, Liverpool held the upper hand, and a clever run by Michael was followed by a dropping shot from M'Cartney, the ball being tumbled into the net, but the goal was disallowed for charging the goalkeeper, a case of hard lines for Liverpool. This was followed by a grand bit of play from Bradshaw, and Allan sent in a terrific shot, which was magnificently cleared by Foulkes, and although Liverpool were attacking in strong fashion, they could not penetrate the defence. Then both Bradshaw and M'Vean tested Foulkes with a couple of stingers, but Foulkes was in brilliant form, and repeatedly saved. There was no mistaking the earnestness of the Liverpoolians, who continued to attack strongly, and United very rarely invaded the Liverpool quarters. Moran had now to be escorted off the field, but soon returned, and the Sheffielders bombarded Foulkes's charge in most determined fashion, which eventually was rewarded. M'Vean got away, and centring cleverly, Bradshaw scored an unmistakable goal. Spurred on by this success, Liverpool were again busy, and then United made a spurt, Yates forcing an unsuccessful corner, but a spell of even play ensued, and the final result was—Liverpool, 1 goal; Sheffield United, 1. The game was one of the finest seen this season, and both teams went most spiritedly into the contest. Liverpool were decidedly the superior team, and had fully three-fourths of the game, and nothing

but the really clever goalkeeping of Foulkes saved the United from defeat. Throughout the play was of the finest description, and this was kept up to the finish, when Liverpool were certainly staying better, and deserved to win. The game was most contested in the United territory, and nothing could have been finer than the display of the Liverpoolians, though the United were also in their best form. The strength of the United lay in their halves and right wing forwards, Yates and Henderson combining in magnificent style, whilst the centres of the former were really splendid. Altogether, it was a grand game, and had Liverpool won none could have begrudged them their victory. Neil at half was again clever, whilst amongst the forwards every man was in tip-top form, and Allan was simply splendid, but all round the Liverpoolians played a magnificent game, and deserved to win.