

Mercury		

Liverpool Mercury

LIVERPOOL v. DERBY COUNTY.

The return League game between the above teams was played at Anfield yesterday, before 25,000 spectators. The teams were as under:—

Liverpool—Perkins, goals; Robertson and Donlop, backs; Wilson, Ransbeck, and Goldie, half-backs; Robertson, McQuigan, Raybould, Hunter, and Cox, forwards.

Derby County—Fryer, goals; Mathew and Morris, backs; Warren, Goodall, and Leckie, half-backs; Crawford, Bloomer, Boag, Wombwell, and McQueen, forwards.

Penultimately to time Raybould started operations, and the opening stages were fast and interesting. Liverpool were the first to exert pressure, but, dallying in front of goal, enabled the Derby backs to clear. The visitors continued with a neat passing movement, and forced a corner from which Goodall made a very wide attempt to score. Both sides indulged in street footwork, and McQueen with a long shot just skinned the bar, whilst a few minutes later Bloomer, when close to Perkins, had his shot charged down by Ransbeck. Liverpool took up the offensive, and McQuigan striking, Leckie gave to Robertson, who forced an absolute corner. The latter again sprang along easily, and transferred to McQuigan, who was charged down when an open goal was before him. The Derby forwards displayed capital form, and were with difficulty held in check. The home backs, amongst whom Ransbeck was very prominent, warded off every attack, and it was just as well that the defenders were so determined, for Bloomer and his confederates were decidedly dangerous when on the move. At length Cox raced round Morris, and centred, but McQuigan failed by inches to reach the ball, or a goal must have resulted. The Liverpool front rank did not show their customary combination, and Fryer was rarely called upon. Another dash by the home right led to McQuigan giving to Raybould, who was splendidly placed, but offside was successfully claimed. Play became more even, but the Liverpool front rank was by no means deadly near goal, and by dallying spoiled many fine openings. Goodall was penalised just outside the twelve yard line, and from the free kick a corner resulted, but the whistle blew just as the ball was sailing towards the centre. The interval thus arrived with the score sheet blank. Restarting, Derby attacked straight away, and Boag racing past the backs gave Perkins a header, which the custodian saved at full worth. Liverpool retaliated and gained a corner, which was badly taken, but from a second, resulting from a capital shot by Cox, Robertson headed over the bar. The home forwards did not show much improvement, but eventually smart passing on their left wing gave Hunter an opening, and the inside man failed by the merest slings to score. Derby broke away, and Crawford, sending across, Boag re-

ceived when only a couple of yards from Perkins, who effected a miraculous clearance. The ball hovered in dangerous proximity to the home goal, but relief came at last, and the Liverpool supporters once more breathed freely. A beautiful chance was afforded McQuigan shortly afterwards, the ball coming to him from the left, but, with only Fryer to beat, he sent yards outside. Derby paid a temporary visit to the home goal, but Liverpool rushed back, and Raybould when close in shot hard against the upright. Liverpool completely nullified all their efforts by their straggling work in front of Fryer, and Derby breaking away, Bloomer obtained possession, and skimmed the posts with a terrific shot. The Peakites defended with stubborn persistency, though Liverpool did not attack with the vigour that was likely to gain any tangible point. Crawford missed a grand chance of scoring five minutes from time, by shooting wide, but the final whistle blew with the score as at half-time. Results—

Liverpool	0
Derby County	0

NOTES ON THE GAME.

The display given by the Liverpool forwards was distinctly disappointing. There was a total lack of understanding amongst them, but the chief weakness was the inability to send in a decent shot. They finessed and juggled with the ball when a shot was necessary, the consequence being that the Derby backs invariably cleared their lines without having recourse to the assistance of Fryer. Not one of the forward line showed his real form, but Robertson on the extreme right was the most conspicuous failure. Possibly Walker's absence upset the machinery of the quintette, but this could not be urged as an excuse for the miserable dallying in front of goal. The half-backs were more successful, and the backs, though kicking strongly, often exercised considerable lack of judgment. Perkins was the saviour of his side, and following as it does his fine display against the Forest, proves the Liverpool custodian to be one of the most reliable players in the team. The Derby forwards were extremely smart, and it was a distinct slice of good fortune which enabled Perkins to clear from Boag when the latter seemed to have a certain goal ahead. Leckie played a surprisingly fine game at half, and Goodall was chiefly noticeable for his long kicking, which enabled the speedy forwards to harass the home backs. Fryer had a very easy time of it, and had not one difficult shot to clear. Liverpool were fortunate in not being beaten, and it cannot be said that on the play they did not deserve to lose both points.

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Opposition: Derby County
Competition: League

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