

LUCK AT NORWICH.

LUTON'S POOR AWAY GOALS RECORD.

Luton played their third Holiday fixture at Norwich, and fortunately were able to command a more representative eleven than was the case last season when this match wound up the Easter programme and Luton lost by 6-1. On the way Brown was taken queer, but he recovered somewhat after a visit to the chemist in London, and eventually took his place in the team. Still it was not until the second half when he played his usual game, and this handicapped Luton considerably. Luton's goal record away from home is the worst in the league, only three goals previous to Monday having been netted in nine matches, so that by scoring two at Norwich at least one record is set up, for in no other game had more than one been secured.

The game under notice was one which fluctuated considerably. In the first half neither side could claim any advantage on the play, although Norwich were lucky enough to have a goal lead at the interval. For the opening half an hour in the concluding "forty five" the "Canaries" simply overwhelmed the Lutonians except Platt, and in a measure Gregory, and if they had repeated their feat of the two previous games by scoring five goals at this end of the field no one would have been surprised. Indeed, it is a matter of wonder to the writer how it was only one further goal was put on, and this was immediately after the restart. Then for the final quarter of an hour Luton appeared likely to pull the game out of the fire and thus spring a big surprise. Moody's second goal opened up big possibilities, but although Luton tried their best they were unable to equalise. Still the crowd were visibly anxious as time after time the Luton vanguard bore down on Roney and his backs. More than once were the home defenders beaten to the world, but good fortune helped them, especially when F. Hawkes' shot was turned out of goal by striking Craig's shoulder when that worthy knew nothing about it whatever, and Roney was at the opposite end.

Platt, during the terrific bombardment mentioned above, played with magnificent judgment, and undoubtedly saved Luton from a heavier defeat. Gregory also played a fine game, and anyone who had not seen his work during the past week or so would not recognise him as the player who did so poorly at the start of the season. McCurdy was not so much in evidence, being evidently troubled by his old injury on the hard surface. The half back line had as much as they could do at times, for on such a small pitch the forwards often were able to get away with the ball directly off a big clearance from their full backs, and this meant naturally a lot of running about of the middle line. Still, each member of this division was in good form, and like their opponents took a share in trying to find the net.

Forward, the Stansfield and Moody wing were the most in evidence until the last few minutes, and both Moody's goals were fine efforts. Menzies opened out in his usual style, but was rather handicapped so far as his individual work was concerned by the crowding of so many players into defence caused by the peculiar ground. Brown, as previously mentioned, came out of his shell in the second half and was almost unstoppable when he got a chance. Haycock was not seen to so much advantage as against Watford, and evidently prefers a heavy ground.

Norwich's record as the team whose goal has been pierced more often than any other in the league did not foretell a very safe defence, but the two backs who turned out on Monday have not been with them long, or I am convinced a different total would have stood on the table. Craig, of course, is well known, and although now quite a veteran, his height comes in very useful, and he used fine judgment. The surprise packet, however, was the unknown Reynolds. This player notwithstanding the dangerous going never hesitated to get in, and he usually came out with the ball. He is on the small side for a back, but is sturdy, and with any amount of pluck he is a worthy successor to McEwen, who, by the way, is not likely to play again this season through injury. Allsopp and Dunning were the two best forwards, and our old left winger still gets across the ball with tremendous power, and if correctly directed it is difficult for a goalkeeper to stand against his shots.

The teams were as under:—

Norwich City: Roney; Craig and Reynolds; Newlands, French and Whiteman; Coxhead, C. E. Dunning, Tomlinson, Flanagan and Allsopp.

Luton: Platt; McCurdy and Gregory; Fred Hawkes, Jones and R. Hawkes; Brown, Haycock, Menzies, Moody and Stansfield.

Referee, Mr. J. T. Howcroft, Bolton.

Luton took a corner in the first minute of the game, caused through a bad mistake by Craig, who had crossed over to retrieve a slip by Reynolds, but the Norwich captain retrieved his error by heading the corner kick away. Still, Luton were quickly down again, and Stansfield dropped the ball in nicely, causing Roney to catch and kick away in double quick time for the opposite wing were bearing down upon him. Luton were on the whole playing the better football, but a sudden dash through by Flanagan gave Tomlinson the ball right in front of Platt, and although the Luton goalkeeper just touched it he could not prevent it passing through. Tomlinson certainly appeared to be in an offside position, but the referee would heed no appeal, and the goal stood. This happened about ten minutes after the start, and naturally gave the home players confidence. Flanagan got through again soon after, but this time Mr Howcroft knocked the goal off for offside.

Luton visited Roney, and Moody had hard luck in not getting a clear shot at goal after working for the opening, but the home custodian realising the danger dashed out and just managed to secure the ball first.

Dunning was getting away nicely when he was fouled by Jones, and although this particular free kick came to nothing the ball remained in the Luton half, and a back pass from McCurdy in-

tended apparently for Platt went square across the goal out of Peter's reach direct to Dunning, who had nothing to do but tap through. It was a gift goal indeed, and the Canaries were two goals up after twenty minutes' play.

They did not hold this lead for long for a smart centre from Brown dropped right in front of the Norwich goal, and Roney only fisted it away a yard or so, and Stansfield rushed up and drove the ball back hard only to see it turned round the upright by Reynolds, who was standing right on the line. Stansfield dropped the resulting corner kick beautifully, and Moody did the rest with his sure head. One of the linesmen apparently did not agree with Mr Howcroft, and rushed into the centre to argue the point, but if there is one official more than another who has the assurance of his convictions it is Mr. J. T. Howcroft, and the protesting linesman was dramatically ordered to his post on the touch line.

Stansfield almost got through on his own, but Reynolds dashed behind and blocked the way into goal. About the best attempt before the interval came from Menzies, whose shot only just missed by inches, the ball brushing the bar as it flew over. Interval—

Norwich City 2, Luton 1.

Changing over Norwich had the slight slope and wind in their favour, and they quickly increased their advantage, Dunning netting during a melee in front of Platt. Platt had shots rained at him from all quarters of the field. Craig took his part in the target practice, but Platt was always equal to long attempts similar to this, and easily saved.

One fast low shot from Brown escaped Roney's outstretched hand, but passed over the line just outside the far post. But about ten minutes from time Moody reduced the lead with a clever goal. Pouncing on the ball in midfield he dashed through the backs and beat Roney with a cross shot into the corner of the net. An equaliser seemed certain when F. Hawkes got in a fine drive which missed Roney and was sailing inside when Craig's shoulder intervened sufficiently to turn it by the upright. Again right on time Brown ran through and tried to beat Roney on his own with a fine cross drive, but it was just a yard or so too wide, and went over the line near the extreme upright for a goal kick. Result—

Norwich City 3 goals, Luton 2 goals.