

Football Notes and News.

BY "THE GOALIE."

LUTON LOSE TO NORWICH.

BUT STILL HOLD ONE RECORD.

MOODY HOLDS ANOTHER.

Luton lost to Norwich City away on Saturday by the odd goal in five. They were not disgraced, however; the home team are a redoubtable set of players, and as I said last week, we need not be surprised to see the boys in Blue drop a little down the table in the next few weeks, as we have a long spell of hard games and away matches. It will be after Christmas, I prophesied, when the Luton lads will come up again smiling.

After all, too, the victory of Norwich was none too decisive. They snatched the winning goal right on time at the very end of the match. Moreover, they were not too "safe" with either of their other two goals. On both occasions Luton were dissatisfied with the allowing of the points, appealing strongly against the first on the double ground of off-side and "hands." Referee Freemantle, however, ruled against them.

Nevertheless, we have still one or two solaces to cling to. I have not failed throughout the season to chronicle one or more records the Blues have notched for every game they have played, away or at home; and they have given me the opportunity of recording another again this week, even though they lost. In scoring their two goals they took their total of goals they have scored up to 23; and this still stands as a record for all the teams of the three principal Leagues this season. The Luton boys will have to "buck up," however, if they do not want to lose this honour; for both Crystal Palace and Swindon in the Southern League are approaching them in this figure.

One other feature of the match is very satisfactory to Lutonians also. This was the game played by the Luton defence, the improvement in which I have several times commented upon. Indeed, even the London papers are very commendatory on this matter this week, one of them actually saying that "some really magnificent work was put in by the defence of each team." So that therein lies a little consolation for the home supporters; while therein lies too a great meed of praise for the Luton forwards in having twice found the net against such a defence as was set up against them.

Luton's two goals came through Moody and—much to his own chagrin—Mackenzie, one of the Norwich backs. The latter goal, however, belonged to Brown. He had dropped in one of his lovely, curling centres that would delight the heart of any but the most crabbed old croaker; and the ball, striking Mackenzie, glanced off him into the net, well out of Beale's reach.

The team holds a second record through one of its members this week, however and that member is Moody, upon the excellence and indispensability of whose play and headwork I commented when the season began, and when the "croakers" referred to and many others also were calling actually for his exclusion from the team (by the way, it is strange how few will own up now to having held this opinion then!) Moody holds the honour of being the most prolific goal-scorer among all the forwards of the South, having nine goals to his credit; and even counting the teams of the three chief Leagues of English football to-day he is bracketed top with one other player, no forward having scored more goals than he has this season. Once more I shake hands with Moody in hearty congratulations.

Once more, too, let me say that I am not downhearted. No team stays at the top of a League right from the beginning to the end of a season; and as I have said before, Luton will "come up" in the second half of the season, just as they have done in the second half of nearly all the matches they have played.