

ANOTHER POINT LOST.

How Luton's Centre Missed the Winning Goal

Changes were expected in the Luton Town team after the mid-week display, but some of those made for the home Southern League match with Norwich City on Saturday seemed to be of the panic-stricken order. The last lines of defence were the only part of the side not interfered with. Fred Hawkes and Johnson returned to the half-back line, and with Needham on the injured list Wilson was removed to the left-half position. This arrangement was a matter of necessity, but the most unexpected changes were in the front rank, only the regular centre and extreme wingers being retained. Chipperfield, freed from the suspension imposed on him at the end of last season, made his first appearance as a professional, in partnership with his old Clarence club-mate, and Heath, Luton's other new professional, took Wileman's place at inside right. Captained by Collins, the old Fulham half, Norwich had a very different side from that which last played at Luton, their players being:—Denoon; Houghton, Mackenzie; Collins, Martin, Bell; Potter, Woods, Turner, Ritchie and Wilson.

The new formation cannot be described as a complete success, but it was an undoubted improvement on that of Wednesday's. The forwards did more attacking than in any of their previous home matches, and although the homesters hardly impressed one as a winning side, a draw of one goal apiece was not a bad performance after being in arrears in the first three minutes. This goal was a very tame affair, and was the result of the first bad blunder we remember Mitchell to have made since he has been with Luton Town. Turner was put through with a forward pass, and although Elvey tried his hardest to stall him off he was just a yard short. Mitchell evidently thought Elvey would not fail, and left it too late before he

darted out, with the result that when he did Turner simply side-booted the ball by him. It was a bad start for Luton, and although they had the advantage of a high wind Mitchell, Elvey and Co. had all they could do to prevent it being worse.

For fully twenty minutes the homesters never once looked like scoring, and the forwards seemed quite unable to settle down, but subsequently they were the more dangerous by fits and starts, although the game was very well contested. Simms seemed to have found something of his shooting form, and got in several capital first-timers, one of which hit the upright hard and rebounded into play, while another hit the side of the net and gave many of the spectators the impression that it was an equaliser. Johnson also got a great free kick drive right away from the goalkeeper only to find one of the backs at the other end of the goal, but the Canaries' narrowest escape was when Simms rushed the goalkeeper, displaced the ball from his arms, and Chipperfield followed up just as the old Chelsea man dived to the ground, collared the ball, and scrambled it away in very lucky fashion.

The Blues did not deserve to be behind on the run of the play, but it was not until five minutes before the change of ends that they drew level. The equaliser came while the Canaries were one short. The heads of Roberts and Mackenzie came into such sharp collision that both were taken off for attention, to reappear later patched up with sticking-plaster on the forehead. Roberts got back first, and was in time to take a fine swinging pass from Simms and land a beautifully-judged centre in the goal mouth. It found the defence in difficulties, and Heath forced his way round the backs and, waiving aside two of his colleagues who would certainly have been ruled offside had they interfered, placed the ball well out of the goalkeeper's reach.

In the second half the Blues changed into their smart new red jerseys with black bands, and gave a more consistent display than in the first half. Simms ought to have won the game easily in the first twenty minutes, as from Hoar's centre, Heath headed forward, and one of the backs clean mis-kicked, leaving Simms with the goal at his mercy. There was no need to hurry, and he took his time in placing the ball, but after all this shot by in the most disappointing fashion. This was the only near thing there was until the last few minutes, when Potter gave Mitchell the only real testing he had after the change of ends. The Blues wound up with a rousing spurt, Simms and Chipperfield being very prominent with rushing work. A punt into goal by Robinson drew the goalkeeper out, and Simms half dispossessed him, but Denoon recovered at a second attempt, and so enabled Norwich to take away a point.

Neither side were in great form near goal, but on the scoring chances Luton should have won. Their attack showed some improvement, but was still far from good. Simms continues his unhappy knack of making many brilliant efforts and missing the gifts, while he also made on Saturday the mistake one hoped he had rectified, of forgetting there are other forwards. Neither Heath nor Chipperfield did badly, but they would have done much better if they had been given favourable chances, while Roberts was once more neglected. The halves were more serviceable than on Wednesday, although not nearly so good as those of the visitors. Johnson certainly gave the best centre-half display there has been given for Luton on the Town ground this season; but the outstanding figure on the side was Elvey, who played all through with remarkable grit and a judgment that was seldom found wanting.