

## DISPUTED GOAL AND CURTAIN LECTURE AT NORWICH

Of the team who played at Watford three players were left out of Saturday's team for various causes. Bookman had been allowed leave, Rutherford, was of course, quite out of the question on account of his injury, and it was decided to bring in Roe again to the exclusion of Dodd. These alterations meant other players shifting positions, and the side lined up at Norwich as follows:—Summers; Elvey and Dunn; F. Hawkes, Urwin, and Parker; Grimes-Hill, Roe, Higginbotham, and Hoar. Norwich were represented by Skermer; Gray and B. G. Smith; Hall, W. Jennings, and Martin; Laxton, Broadhead, W. C. Bell, S. Jennings, and A. R. Hawes. Referee, Mr. G. N. Watson, Nottingham.

Those members of the Luton team who had not previously visited the "Nest" had quite a shock at the peculiar construction of the ground, and it was a surprise to all to find the pitch as hard as iron and almost bare of grass, especially after the soft going of the previous day at Watford. It seemed as though there had been no rain whatever at Norwich for weeks, judging from the condition of the ground, which made it difficult to control the ball especially when playing down hill.

The crowd numbered quite 10,000 when the game was started by Roe, and the ball was mostly in the Luton quarters for the opening stages, but the difficulty of controlling the ball prevented Summers being much tested, although he was a bit overworked in taking

goal kicks. The opening pair, credited to the City was admitted by all in a position to judge to be a bad blunder on the part of the referee. The whole movement was an unlucky incident from a Luton point of view. In the first place the City right-wing got clean away through Parker, being injured. The Luton player was still on the ground when Summers gave a corner, and it was a minute or two before the kick was taken while Parker received attention. Laxton at last was allowed to take the flag-kick, and the ball came out to W. Jennings, who herded into the goal-mouth. Summers certainly dropped the ball, but while on his knees he secured it again while it was still a foot clear of the line, and finally got it away. The referee pointed for a goal, and naturally a cheer went up from the crowd. The Luton players, who had not realised the position, at once surrounded the official, but he would not consult either of the linesmen, and the game was restarted from the centre.

The excitement, however, was not cooled down, and Higginbotham was fouled immediately the whistle went. On this the referee called all the players to the centre and gave them a lecture. Going back to the goal incident it was universally agreed by everyone at that end of the field that the ball never crossed the line. It was easy to see the line as it was distinctly marked on the bare playing surface, and the Norwich directors themselves expressed sympathy with the Luton officials.

The Luton players were not put off their game and really put more dash into their play. Hear especially threatening danger as a result of a series of fine dashes down the left wing. From one of these raids the equalising point resulted. The ball was finely placed in the centre by Hear, and Roe getting it neatly headed over to Hill, who headed the ball down and dashing through sent it by Skermer with a grand cross drive. Thus the scores were level at the interval.

With the slope in their favour, Luton were not without hope of final victory, and actually had the greater share of the play, but like the City under the same conditions they found the light ball very difficult to control. Hill all but brought about the desired goal by a dash through, but he was badly brought down within three yards of the goal. A penalty should undoubtedly have been awarded, but once more the referee's decision went in favour of the home side.

Hill was completely knocked out and it took quite a time to bring him round. He was assisted off the field, but came back in a few minutes and finished the game. There were quite a number of other stoppages for injuries, and Laxton had to attend to Parker, Urwin, Hill, and Hear at different times. These were chiefly caused by the hard going. The majority of the players getting lumps knocked off whenever they fell over, and more blood was flowing than in any game during the season, the City men of course not being exempt from injury. Although they kept up the pressure, Luton were not able to find the net again, and finally the whistle went with the score still

## Luton 1, Norwich City 1.

A point away from home is always welcome, but if ever a team earned a couple it was Luton at Norwich. They scored the only real goal of the match, for it was the only time the ball crossed the line, and how the referee failed to penalise the City for the foul on Hill is difficult to understand. The whole of the defence did fine work in the first half when the home side were putting on pressure, while the forward line did much better than anticipated on the peculiar Norwich ground. Roe made quite a good emergency centre-forward, and Hill was the best forward on the field, although Hoar ran him close and could have done with more work. The City players on the whole are a young side, although Martin must be excepted, of course. They put in plenty of enthusiasm, but they possess no really clever players to hold them together. It will be remembered they were very lucky to divide the points at Luton, and fortune again favoured them on Saturday.