

TOWN'S BLANK SHEET AT NORWICH.

Luton Town have once more slipped back in the Third Division table and in their goal average, as the result of an unexpectedly heavy defeat at Norwich. The overwhelming superiority displayed by the Town a week ago raised hopes that the team would fare at least as well as on the occasion of last season's visit to Norwich and pick up the point lost at home to Crystal Palace, but to visiting teams the Canaries' Nest is even more difficult to successfully raid than that of the old Robins at Selhurst, and Luton had to return home with the heaviest defeat experienced since the visit to Queen's Park Rangers the last Saturday in September. This takes them below Merthyr Town and the Rangers into the eighth position, with a record of: Played 16, won 7, lost 6, drawn 4, goals 27 against 31, points 18.

Saturday was "Our George's Day" at Norwich, for the match was for the benefit of George Martin, the City captain. Martin is the only player in the Canaries' team who carried the colours of the club prior to the war, but he was meeting one of the old brigade in Molyneux, who interested himself in selling tickets among his Luton friends for the benefit of his old captain.

Luton played exactly the same team as the previous week, but Norwich sent Hopewell to Luton for the second Saturday in succession, and gave his place in the first team to Addy, the player who scored the disputed penalty in the Reserves match at Norwich. Travers, the old Swindon player, changed places with Dennison, and led the attack, the teams being:—

Luton Town: Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Walsh, Parker; Hoar, Higginbotham, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Norwich City: Skermer; Gray, B. U. Smith; Wilkinson, Martin, Addy; Austin, Dennison, Travers, Booth, Dobson.

Referee, Mr. F. Leigh, Hanley.

There were close on 12,000 spectators and for once the display of the Canaries appeared to afford their supporters unqualified satisfaction. Their attack showed signs of vast improvement, and the advantage of starting their favourite way down the slope enabled them to get well together from the outset and exert a pretty constant and worrying pressure before the visitors had settled down to adapt themselves to the conditions. Little fault could be found with the Luton halves and backs, who drove the Canaries back time after time, and the visiting forwards put plenty of spirit into their attack, but most of the danger centred on Bailey's charge. Skermer and Hoar alone were successful in calling upon Skermer, but the Luton goal had one or two very

narrow escapes, one shot from Travers rebounding into play from the post.

The only goal of the half came after half an hour's play, and it resulted from a fast breakaway which rather took the visitors off their guard, Travers snapping up a pass from Booth and getting close in before he parted with a fast rising shot which gave Bailey no chance. From this point up to the interval the Canaries had decidedly the better of the exchanges, and were frequently threatening danger, and it was creditable to the Luton defence that they withstood all the assaults.

A good deal of ill-feeling crept into the game, doubtless as a sequel to the treatment meted out by certain of the Norwich defenders to the Luton players the previous week, and the referee was kept pretty busy in the first half talking to one player after another. Matters became so bad at one stage that he called both teams together and gave them an official lecture and word of caution, but it did not have any appreciable effect. The vigour imported into the game was tremendous, and in the second half particularly stoppages for injuries were frequent.

Norwich continued the more dangerous in the early part of the second half, and Bailey was twice severely tested, but later Luton took the game in hand in such masterly fashion that it seemed as if an equaliser must come. Simms was continually plying Hoar with swinging passes, and the right winger got the ball across with an accuracy that always threatened danger. Simms and Mathieson, however, missed capital chances, and the visitors' hopes of a point vanished when, with about a quarter of an hour to go, a penalty was awarded against Tirrell for hands, and Addy increased the Norwich lead. Luton still kept up a game fight, but could not overcome the opposing defence, and in the very last minute Austin, with a brilliant run and centre that landed almost under the bar, enabled Travers to make the result:

Norwich City 3, Luton Town 0.

The final score completely exaggerates the margin of difference between the two sides on the actual run of the play, as until the last quarter of an hour or so Luton were fully entitled to at least have been on an equality. It was the general opinion that the Canaries gave their best display of the season, and no disgrace therefore can attach to either Bailey or the backs, of whom Lennon played a masterly game. The halves also played strongly, but only Simms and Hoar did themselves justice in the front line, and the centre was too well looked after to get many chances. The Canaries' defence was very powerful and unflinching, and the re-arranged forward line was so successful that it could hardly be reconciled with the display given at Luton.