

DISAPPOINTMENT LAST NIGHT.

NO GOALS ON TOWN GROUND.

Did we miss Tom Parker last night? Many people told me so, and I must agree. Not that Jimmy Walker was a failure. On the other hand, he was a distinct success, but somehow Parker's faculty of dominating the game in midfield was lacking. Ever since I saw Walker play in the Town first eleven at Millwall last season I have been satisfied with his ability, but I hold that he will make a more effective wing half than a centre half. Last night he won much applause, and deserved every bit of it, for he played a brainy game against a dangerous inside trio, but I still think that we shall have a job to fill Parker's place quite satisfactorily, for it is a position that not only calls for a lot of skill, but is best served by men of strong physique and forceful action. Walker has the skill all right. He is a ready-made player, but I am convinced he will do better still on the wing.

There is not much difference between the styles of Norwich City and Southampton, and those who saw last night's game may imagine that they also saw the game at Norwich. The ball was in the clouds more often than not, and only occasionally were the attacks engineered with intelligence. Luton were the better side, and although I see that the "Saints" are spoken of as a team remarkably well trained, they had nothing to spare at the end last night, and certainly did not finish better than the Town. I was told that it was a good game. Sure, there were a goodly number of thrills, and plenty of spirit was infused, but from a scientific aspect I was disappointed. Our forwards did not play so well as at Norwich. The rest of the team did quite as well as in the first game, and it must have been made quite clear to the spectators that the defence is not going to give much away. The calls on Bailey could be counted on one hand. He was very lucky on two occasions, the first being soon after the start, when four of the "Saints" missed the ball as it came across goal, and the next in the second half when Tirrell headed out of goal when Bailey was well beaten. These were the two occasions when the "Saints" might have won the game, but for the major portion they were defending—and doing it well. Luton had quite a score of corners, and if matches were won on the principle of applied pressure, they would have had the verdict by a big margin.

Allen, in the "Saints" goal, did the best work for his side when he saved Simms' shot in the first half, when everybody shouted "Goal!" It was a thrilling save, and I shall be surprised if this youngster one day before he is much older does not find a place in England's goal. He made a reputation last season, and he looks like enhancing it. He had two powerful backs in front of him, but they were not as sure and quick as Luton's pair. They kicked the ball more often, a fault shared by their halves, and often one would see the ball go so high that the players gathered from far and near to see how great was the fall of it. I have never seen such high kicking in consecutive matches as in Luton's first two this season. And it is not pretty or clever. The "Saints" forwards, too, did too much of it, and when they were in front of goal they could not hit the ball straight. The "Saints" backs were even, but Shelley was the best half-back, and in the forward line none worked so cleverly as Andrews. Secured from Reading, who had him from Southampton, he was usually with Reading Reserves last season, but he was the best of his bunch last night.

Bailey was not troubled so often as on Saturday. He did his bit pretty well. Lennon and Tirrell were good at back, and seldom were both beaten. Walker I have referred to, he was very good indeed, and Walsh did yeoman service in his own way, but Molyneux was best, and his only fault was an inclination to wander. There was little cohesion between the middle and forward lines, and the quintette found ball control a most difficult matter. Hoar and Butcher were probably the pick; Simms did not distribute at his best, and the left wing was never moving with confidence. On two or three occasions Mathieson showed clever footwork, but he had not enough powder in his boots to get a goal. The "Saints" did well to keep a clean score sheet.

Over 10,000 spectators attended, and were disappointed that the Town could not get a goal. Perhaps they will make up on Saturday.

Luton Town.—Bailey; Lennon, Tirrell; Molyneux, Walker, Walsh; Hoar, Butcher, Simms, Mathieson, Bookman.

Southampton.—Allen; Parker, Titmuss; Shelley, Campbell, Turner; Brown, Dornay, Rawlings, Andrews, Foxall.

Referee: H. C. Curtis, Chingford.