

LUTON TOWN'S FIRST TWO MATCHES.

Parker's Misfortune.

At Norwich on Saturday:—

LUTON TOWN	1 goal
NORWICH CITY	Nil

At Luton on Monday:—

LUTON TOWN	Nil
SOUTHAMPTON	Nil

Well, we have resumed, and two of the 42 games have been played. We have three points through scoring one goal, and we have lost our best half-back for at least six months. It is a tragic start, this accident to Parker, but on the whole the Club are to be congratulated on making such a promising restart. Three points out of a possible four, taken from two of the stiffest propositions in the League, is a really good beginning, and calls for no comparison with that of last year. So far the most satisfactory feature has been the strength of the defence, and we have negotiated two awkward situations in good style. Of course, after winning at Norwich it was a disappointment to fail to take both points from Southampton at Luton, but there were circumstances that affected everybody, entirely apart from the tactics of the visitors, which have always puzzled the Town. Only in the matter of cleanliness was the game on Monday evening very much different from that at Norwich, for the "Saints" with the exception of one little incident, played a sporting game.

At Norwich things were not quite so good, and the East Anglians played that vigorous, unscientific, neck-and-crop game that upsets the best of clubs. They had not been beaten at home for 11 months, and some idea of the value of Luton's victory may be gathered from the performance of the "Canaries" at Plymouth on Monday, when they shared the points with the Argyle. The Town were the better side, as everybody at Norwich admitted, and they should have had more goals. Mathieson's successful shot was a real beauty, and from that point the Town never lost their grip of the game—not even when Parker was a hospital patient. In every department they played smarter football, and although they did not reach the same level on Monday night, I think we may look for successful working from the line as it is now constituted. If it does not prove effective, well, we have at hand the means to mend it, and I honestly believe that we shall find ourselves in a better position at the end of next April than last. At the moment it is largely an experimental side, and the loss of Parker makes the position more problematical. Still, I feel with the majority of the spectators that Walker is a really good half, and the only doubt in my mind about his inclusion is whether he would not do better on the wing. Undoubtedly he is a capture, and if I prefer Parker it is only for this particular position and the physical advantages he possesses. Walker is to be a first choice before long, and he would have done even better on Monday night but for a painful injury to his toe in the first half.

Of the games themselves little remains to be said now. I dealt with the play and players pretty fully in the "Pictorial" on Tuesday, but I think a summary of the criticism may be advantageous. Bailey has shown that he is not going to be ousted from the custodianship if he can help it. He is playing with more confidence than last year. Lennon and Tirrell have made a fine start, and both at Norwich, in spite of the curious ground, and against Southampton on Monday, they showed a high standard of intelligence, and kicked and tackled splendidly. The middle line, the key to success or failure, is so open to change that one can say little about it. The six men available are so level in quality that anyone might be chosen without impairing the present state of efficiency. Molyneux, Walsh and Parker have done well, and Roe and Millar are playing finely. With Foster almost ready we ought to have a really good line. The forwards I have referred to. We have not got into thorough working order, but it will come, I have no doubt, and the sooner it comes the higher and brighter the prospects of the club.

Teams:—

Norwich.—Skirmer; Hope, Smith; Wilkinson, Scott, Martin; Austin, Bertram, Whing, Booth, Woodhouse.

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

Referee. T. J. Duke.

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

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

Referee: H. C. Curtis, Chingford.