

# AT NORTHAMPTON.

NORTHAMPTON TOWN 2 goals

LUTON TOWN ..... Nil

NORTHAMPTON. — Smith; Watson, Brett; Newton, Wood (E.), Williams; Pease, Wood (W.), York, Myers, Page.

LUTON.—Gibbon; Till, Tirrell; Molyneux, Jennings, Roe; Henderson, Butcher, Green, Hoten, Hoar.

Referee.—Mr. P. G. Rudd, Willesden.

It was quite a surprise to some of us that so many supporters journeyed from Luton to Northampton. The results (mark the word) of the games have not encouraged support, and I do not think anyone expected it, but it proved conclusively that there are quite a good number of supporters prepared to recognise that misfortune has played a big part in the failure of the team to get on the winning track. The Town were again unfortunate last night, for they had to leave Kerr behind nursing an injured heel, and, as events proved, he might have made all the difference in the world between success and defeat.

There was not a Luton supporter, and precious few Northampton people, who did not think that Luton should have held a winning lead at half-time. They had the chances, but failed to take them, and that was the reason for defeat. The first goal made a great difference, and if it had fallen to Luton the result, I fancy, would have been our first win of the season. It fell to the "Cobblers" and they were very, very lucky indeed to get it. But I am anticipating.

The Northampton County ground looked better than was the actual fact. It was bumpy, and as the ball was very hard and lively, control was exceedingly difficult.

Owing to injury Kerr could not play, and Green occupied the centre-forward berth. Hoar crossed to the extreme left wing, and let Henderson in at outside-right. The flank halves were changed, Molyneux and Roe superseding Foster and Millar. Northampton made two changes from the side that visited Luton.

Tirrell won the toss, and set the "Cobblers" to face the sun. In the first minute Jennings and Till each made smart clearances, the former stopping Myers' progress and Till putting an end to a fancy design that Page was executing. We had not long to wait for a thrill.

Henderson got possession near the middle line, and went along the wing at top speed, beating Brett for pace, and cutting in to goal. Less distance than six yards from Smith we all expected to

see him fire the ball into the net, but he was too unselfish in trying to give his inside men a certain goal for the shooting, he screwed it behind them, and E. Wood was not slow in getting the ball away. Pease, who captained the home side, tried to eclipse Henderson's feat, but he had not gone far before he encountered Roe and was stopped, Jennings effecting the clearance. The "Cobblers" persisted, and York endeavoured to work through, but was forced to pass inaccurately, and Till again caught the eye with fine clearances. Gibbon cleared two long shots, and then Tirrell was conspicuous with fine headwork.

At the end of 15 minutes' play Tirrell had headed the ball more often than he had kicked it, and he was certainly playing a great deal better than on Saturday. Brett and Williams each handled the ball to stop Luton's right wing, and then a linesman helped the "Cobblers" by giving "hands" against Roe when the ball, rising suddenly from a tuft, struck his arm. W. Wood placed the free kick very nicely, but Till cleared cleverly. Then Gibbon had to run out and clear twice, and again Tirrell's head put the stopper on an advance. The same prominent feature judiciously used spoiled another raid, and when Myers fouled Roe there came much needed relief.

From this point Luton had much more of the game. Hoten made a fine effort, but his final pass found Green encroaching. Green was then pulled up by Brett at a critical moment, and the Town forwards were through again, when Butcher was given "offside," a decision that evoked much mirth. Molyneux ended a dash by Page, and Butcher sent Henderson away with a long pass out.

The winger centred beautifully, and Hoten had a gorgeous chance, but hit the upright when it seemed that he could not do otherwise than net the ball. A scrimmage was developing when the referee gave a free kick to the home team, the reason being obscure. Brett and Watson had applied the offside thory with some success, and Tirrell now worked it on Pease twice in quick succession, and Luton attacked again, but Henderson was pulled up for offside. Roe and Tirrell again checked Pease when W. Wood set the winger going. The ball came up the centre and Green was sent through with a clear course for goal, but he shot from thirty-five yards, and Smith saved all right. Till once more deprived Page, and Hoar came into the picture. Beating Watson and Brett he centred for Green to shoot all along the ground, but Smith neatly fielded and delivered. Again Hoar beat the opposition and tapped into the middle for Hoten to take a hard shot, but the ball struck a defender and rebounded. Tirrell defended finely when the "Cobblers" got away again, and Jennings blotted York out of the picture. W. Wood made a smart dribble, but found his way barred by Jennings, and Till kicked clear. Butcher and Hoten worked another passage for Green, who had an open space, but once more shot from 30 yards when he should have gone ahead, and Smith was safe at home. Green rushed Watson a moment later and called upon Smith to clear. Hoar beat Watson again, but Brett got the ball away. Molyneux now put in some capital tackling that left Myers looking on, and this was the beginning of a strong raid on the "Cobblers'" goal. Green appeared to have a great chance, but was brought down by Brett, who also pulled up the flying Henderson when Butcher put the winger on the move. Then Pease missed an easy chance following a free kick in midfield. The interval came with the score-sheet unmarked:—

NORTHAMPTON .....	0
LUTON .....	0

Luton promptly attacked on the re-start, but Green was offside. The "Cobblers" replied on the right, but his tackled magnificently, and Tirrell kicked clear. More hard work, in which Roe, Jennings and Tirrell figured, kept the "Cobblers'" raids from succeeding, and Henderson then travelled well on the Luton right. He passed Williams and Brett, and was eluding Watson when the latter fouled him, but Molyneux's free kick landed the ball safely into the hands of Smith. Luton were put on the aggressive by Jennings' hefty work in midfield, and Green was sent through. He appeared to be in an offside position, but the ball kicked a defender's foot, and he had a fine chance. He hesitated a moment, and then went on, but he was forced to shoot hurriedly, and Smith was not perturbed very much and got the ball away. Till nullified Myers' dribbling propensities, and then York was given a chance to rush through, but Tirrell smartly stopped him. Henderson made a passage to the other end, but his final shot was weak, and Smith cleared. Northampton then put up a hot attack, and the Luton goal escaped narrowly. Gibbon saved brilliantly from W. Wood at close quarters, but was penalized for carrying, and the free kick was placed wide. Luton took up the running and Hoar took a pass from Green and went though at top speed, but his shot struck an opponent. Butcher and Henderson forced a corner, and the latter placed it for Jennings to

butt it a yard wide. The ball went to the other end, where Myers headed wide, and immediately afterwards Pease was pulled up for offside. York then got in his first shot of the game, but Gibbon saved grandly. Williams tried to bore through, but Molyneux stopped him, and then Luton failed to gain any advantage from a series of free kicks. Newton thrice endeavoured to get his wing through, but Roe and Tirrell held them up. Twenty minutes after the interval the ball was kicked against Roe's shoulder ten yards out of the penalty area, and a free kick was given in spite of the protests of the visitors. Newton placed the ball well in goal, and loud appeals were raised for offside against Myers, who was standing under the bar. He headed against the cross-piece, and Luton were still appealing when W. WOOD rushed the ball through, and opened the scoring with the flurkiest goal scored against the Town this year. Luton promptly attacked again, but Brett and Williams in turn found touch. Another effort saw Hoar head into Smith's waiting hands. Then Till rushed across and stopped Pease in brilliant fashion. The latter, however, got away again and centred from near the corner flag. MYERS got his foot to the ball and sent it into the roof of the net, putting Northampton two up, with 17 minutes still to go. Northampton attacked warmly again, and York hit the bar, Molyneux clearing. Then came a laughable incident. One of the linesmen, who had been very active, now gave a foul against Luton when they were attacking, and he went to the extent of placing the ball for the free kick, but the referee declined to admit interference in that way, and gave a throw-in.

Roe robbed Pease at the expense of a corner, and then Jennings floored Myers near the goal-line at the extremity of the penalty area, and the ball went out of play. Hoar next flashed the ball clean across the goal, but nobody could put it through. Hoten was dribbling through well inside the area when Myers jumped into him from the rear and floored him. There was a loud appeal for a penalty, and it seemed as if the referee would give it, but after a moment's hesitation he gave a goal kick. Luton again returned to the attack and Green and Hoten each had unsuccessful tries to score just before the end came with the result as above.

Although we went under by two goals, there was a considerable improvement in the play. There was more of the team spirit than on Saturday, and of science very much more. I have exceeded space allowance in the foregoing, but must give a word or two. Gibbon, Till and Tirrell all did very much better than against Swansea, and while defenders are always debited with responsibility for goals, only the second should be charged against them, and that was a fine goal. The first point should never have been allowed. Till is going to please everybody except opponents. He kicked and tackled with judgment, and has only to realise that Third Division League play requires prompt riddance of the danger after a successful tackle. It must not be overlooked that he is really a left back, and when he has settled down I think he will be a champion. Tirrell's improvement I attribute to the inclusion of Roe in the middle line. Between them they held Pease, the more dangerous winger, so well that he got few chances, and it was not because he was not well plied, for he was splendidly fed by Newton and the Woods. Roe played well. So did Jennings once more, and York's baptism was a most unhappy one. The Luton centre-half was much too quick and strong for him. To Molyneux applies the tribute to Roe. There was more assistance given to the forwards than in all the three previous games put together. There was more coolness and more definite construction of attack. Few of the supporters there are, I think, but would give those lines a chance to make good as they stand. Of the forwards, however, the tale must be repeated. They were the weak part, and it is chiefly inside. Henderson did not fulfil all his early promise, but he did well enough to be given a further run in that position. Butcher was injured, and the directors have a puzzle to arrange a scoring trio for the inside positions. We ought to have won the match in the first half, and in this respect I can only repeat the comment on the Saturday game—we need an experienced and clever forward who will bring the line's enthusiasm—which is undoubted—into consonance with the sum total of ability. There is too much anxiety to do well, and individual qualifications cannot make a talented whole without the experienced hand to guide.

Northampton were well served in defence. Newton was the pick of a good line of halves, and Wood and Page the most dangerous forwards.

There were 9,000 spectators, the gate money realising just over £500.

**SPORTS GOODS.**

**T**EARLE'S  
FOR  
**TENNIS**

13, CHEAPSIDE, LUTON.