

AT NORTHAMPTON.

Misfortune still pursued to Northampton on Monday night. The Town team came back without a goal to their credit, and two more had been debited against them by the "Cobblers." This was an absurd result in a comparison of the chances, for the Luton forwards had sufficient in the first half to have won the game with ease. Consensus of opinion gave Luton the verdict for having been the better side on the run of the game to the interval, and had the forwards shown anything like a reasonable capacity to find the net, Smith should have been beaten four or five times. That minimises the number of chances they had, good chances, rather than exaggerates.

The changes in the middle line enabled the forwards to go to the attack oftener than in any other game, and on three occasions, at least, the ball was pushed through the middle, and Green had clear runs for goal, but he seemed to have an idea that he had only to shoot at goal. Had he gone ahead before taking his shot, the score would have been vastly different at the finish. The same failing was noticeable in the second half, and once Green had a simple chance when one of the home backs played the ball on to him, but he hesitated a moment, and eventually he had to shoot hurriedly, with the result that there was no steam behind his shot, and the keeper saved.

The forwards had more chances in the first half of this game than in all their previous games together, and they utterly failed to take advantage of them.

In the second half, Northampton's first goal should not have been allowed. Roe was penalised for "hands" when the ball, coming from the lumpy turf at a sharp tangent, struck his shoulder. The free kick was well placed by E. Wood, but Myers was offside in the goal-mouth when he headed against the bar and W. WOOD rushed the ball through. The second goal was a good one. Pease, who had been in subjection, got across a nice centre that went among a number of players to MYERS, who hit it first time and had the satisfaction of sending it into the top of the net.

The changes in the Luton middle line made for better attack, and a corresponding stiffening of the defence. There was more football played by the team, and had the forwards risen to the occasion they would have bagged their first brace of points. Gibbon could not be blamed at all; Till and Tirrell both played much better than against Swansea, and seemed to arrive at an understanding between themselves, and, as a pair, with the halves. Northampton's forwards got



George Butcher

who returned to the Town forward line last Saturday.

precious few opportunities from short range, and nearly all of Gibbon's work in the first half was in dealing with shots from a fairly long range. Once, however, Tirrell saved a goal after Till had been fouled, the ball striking the captain's legs as he stood on the goal-line, to which he had retreated as the final rush of the home forwards was made.

Molyneux and Roe played on the wingers more, and also gave some assistance to the forwards, while Jennings put up a sterling game again at half-back.

Henderson's re-appearance in the first eleven found him quite as capable as any man in the line, but with the exception of one or two dangerous rushes by Hoar and Hoten, there wasn't much to enthuse about. Teams:—

NORTHAMPTON TOWN 2 goals
LUTON TOWN Nil

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

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

Referee.—Mr. P. G. Rudd, Willesden.