

FIRST POINT A WAY.

LUTON'S BIG FIGHT AT NORWICH.

CITY'S LATE EQUALISER.

(By "CRUSADER".)

NORWICH CITY 1 goal
LUTON TOWN 1 "

NORWICH.—Dennington; Coulthard, Campbell; Hannah, Martin, Earl; Featherby, Banks, Jackson, North, Stoakes.

LUTON.—Brookes; Anderson, Graham; Mills, Jennings, Roe; Hoar, Butcher, Kerr, Hotten, Dennis.

Referee.—Mr. S. A. Donaldson, London.

It was the Norwich spectators that earned the draw after Luton had held the lead until four minutes from the end. A better lesson in enthusiasm I have never seen or heard than that to which we were treated in the second half, and I could not but compare the difference between the Norwich crowd and the Luton crowd. At Luton, if the Town are a goal down one finds numbers of the spectators yelling taunts and jeers at the players; at Norwich the home crowd gave their men a warm cheer when they turned out at half-time, and immediately the game was restarted they set up a terrific din, urging on the City players and cheering vociferously every kick that sent the ball a few yards nearer the Town goal. The noise was deafening, but it spurred the team to desperate efforts, and the Town halves and backs had

A GRUELLING TIME.

and the goal several narrow escapes. The reward came in due course, culminating a fierce attack, and while it was a somewhat lucky goal, it would have been hard luck for the City had they been beaten after the great fight they put up in this half. In the first half Luton had more of the play than the City, but in the second half the City were very much the more dangerous side, due chiefly to the impetuosity with which they flung themselves into the fray. The Town showed the better football, and, as a side, this was the best game they have played since they met Millwall at home for the second game of the season, and by far the best they have played away from home. There was more method and combination both in the forward and middle lines, and as a team they were faster on the ball than were their opponents. They had the advantage of the very pronounced slope in the first half, and perhaps it was just as well. The pace was a "cracker," and it was not long before hard knocks were being given and taken, and although Jennings got

A SPECIAL CHEER

when he went on to the field, he was soon getting hard words from the crowd. Whereas the City's dangerous movements usually came from the speedy Stoakes on the left flank, both Luton's wings were hard at it, and that meant true combination. Moreover, there was some strong shooting, but, as is easily understood, it is not easy to keep the ball on the floor when shooting downhill, and strong efforts went over the bar. Hoar, Mills and Dennis all went close with good shots, and Kerr made a wonderful effort that brought out the qualities of Dennington. It wanted only three minutes to the interval when DENNIS scored a glorious goal. It came this way. Hoar raced and beat Campbell for the ball, which the back would have let go outside, but the Town player just managed to get hold of it and turn it into touch. From the throw-in Mills secured and, from 20 yards, fired with all his might. Coulthard leaped up and deflected the ball, which had appeared to be bound for the net. The ball went to the left wing, and Dennis promptly seized, and with a wonderful shot from 15 yards

SCORED A GRAND GOAL.

which gave Dennington no chance to save. In the second half the City pressed furiously under the conditions previously related, but while they got almost on top of Brookes time and time again, they could not beat the Town

defence, while now and then the Town forwards made sharp raids, in which the wingers were especially prominent. The City forwards and halves appeared to give up hope, and there seemed little prospect of their mighty efforts achieving success until the spectators again gave tremendous vocal encouragement. Once Banks, when robbed by Graham and Jennings, went down on all fours in the penalty area and screamed for a penalty, but the ruse was so impudent that half the crowd rocked with laughter, and not a little disgust was expressed in the stand at his action. Then a fierce assault was made, and although the Town packed their goal and several shots rebounded, the ball went to JACKSON, who put in a hard shot that went among the crowd of players and found a lodging in the net, Brookes being helpless to avoid it. A loud appeal for offside was negatived. The City tore down again, but they were beaten back, and in the last minute the ball was sent far up the field. Kerr and Coulthard had a grand race for possession, and the Town centre-forward, who had a bad start, got up an amazing pace and won. He tricked Coulthard on the goal-line, and then middled the ball beautifully. Butcher trapped the ball dead in front of goal, and

A GOAL SEEMED CERTAIN.

but somehow the ball got between his feet, and as he shot Campbell stuck out a foot, and the danger was averted—a very lucky escape, indeed. Time came with the Town pressing, and the score as above.

The spectators freely voiced their inability to understand why the Town had not done better, for they agreed that it was the best struggle they had seen this season. The Town, as the local football paper agreed, deserved their lead at the interval, for they had been the better side, and but for the encouragement by the crowd I doubt if the home team would have done anything like so well in the second half. They have a pretty good side, but while their forward line does not seem quite so good as last season, their defence is better. Dennington and his backs played well, and Martin was a good centre-half. In the forward line Stoakes was the pick.

Brookes had not a lot to do, but he made one or two good saves. Anderson was not at his best in the first half, and seemed to limp a little, but in the second half he was very fine, and kicked and tackled with his accustomed cleverness. Graham once more played a wonderful game. His kicking and tackling were superb, and he showed good pace and judgment. Jennings was more like his old self than he has been either this season or the end of last, and by precept and example he led his men finely. He revelled in the work, and with the City's dashing inside men had many virile tussles. Mills also enjoyed himself, and maintained

THE STANDARD OF PLAY

he has shown, and his penchant for shooting gave not a few thrills. Roe had Featherby pretty well smothered, and found time to help his forwards. In the vanguard there was a most noticeable improvement. Butcher played as if he had never missed a game, and his control was marked by the crowd. Hotten was much better than in any previous game this season, and had hard luck with several good shots. Hoar and Dennis played splendidly and seldom wasted a pass, and both were speedy and accurate in centring. Kerr also showed up prominently, and deserved at least a couple of goals for his pluck. He, too, was better.

It was like a mid-summer day, and the seven thousand spectators enjoyed a game in which there were few dull moments.