

"WRETCHED LUCK" AT NORWICH.

LUTON FORWARDS THRICE HIT THE UPRIGHT.

CITY'S DETERMINATION WINS.

(By "CRUSADER.")

NORWICH CITY 2 goals
LUTON TOWN Nil

NORWICH.—Dennington; Hannah, Wingham; Wall, Martin, Duffus; Featherby, Banks, Jackson, Duthie, Wilson.

LUTON.—Purdy; Graham, Till; Neal, Rennie, Millar; Moffat, Thomson, Thompson, Agnew, Dennis.

Referee.—Mr. J. C. O'Neill, London.

"City's Bad Fright." "Luton Have Wretched Luck in First Half." "Dennington's Brilliant Play." These are three headlines in the "Eastern Football News," the Norwich football paper, on Saturday night. I give them here, because it is almost a hopeless task to try and explain that Luton should not have lost, although they were beaten by two goals clear. Moreover, to make matters more difficult, Norwich got the ball into the net on two other occasions, and the referee got a very hostile demonstration because he ruled that these two were improperly obtained. At half-time the best known Pressman in East Anglia said to me, "Well, you have been all over us. You should have been a goal or two up." The spectators were in glee, because they also recognised that the City had been exceptionally fortunate to escape a drubbing. Fore and aft the Town played

BRIGHT FOOTBALL,

and before the change of ends were by far the better side. The defence was safe, and Purdy seldom required, while the halves and forwards attacked almost continuously, and the constructive work, considering the lively ball and the hard ground, was very fine. The shooting was by no means poor, but it might have been, and would need to be, better to put up a score against a goalkeeper of the quality of Dennington. After the change the game was more even, the slope assisting the rushing tactics of the home side. There was little to choose between the teams in the second period, and so, on the balance of play throughout, Luton should have been successful.

In the first half Agnew

TWICE HIT THE UPRIGHT

with brilliant efforts when Dennington had no chance to save, and in the second half Jim Thompson had the vexatious experience of banging the ball against the post with Dennington at the other end of the goal. Several chances were missed through over-eagerness, bad positioning or dalliance; openings that came from football of sparkling character. I have no hesitation in saying that the Town acquitted themselves remarkably well, and it must not be overlooked that Norwich were fighting desperately to rise from their lowly estate. To three players in particular they owed their success: Dennington, the veteran Martin at centre-half, and Banks. The first-named is a custodian

EQUAL TO ANY

in the country. One save of his from Agnew in the second half was a marvellous feat of judgment and agility. It would have beaten any but a really first-class goalkeeper. Agnew shot with all his might, and the ball travelled like a flash for the farther corner of the net, but the long arms of Dennington swept out as he leapt across goal, and the ball went sailing over the bar.

The two goals that won the game came in the second half. Only two minutes after the restart Millar put all his beef into a charge upon Featherby. The winger did not go down, but whined, and the referee adjudged that Millar had

UNDULY USED HIS WEIGHT,

and a free kick was given. Wall lobbed rather than shot; Purdy brought the ball down, and was right out of position when BANKS had

LUTON CHARITY CUP.

BATFORD OLD BOYS entered the semi-final of the above competition as the result of a good game at Batford, in which they defeated WEST END OLD BOYS by 4-3. West End led by 2-1 at half-time, and scored again shortly after the resumption, but a grim fight by the Old Boys enabled them to put on three goals, the last being scored after the West End had lost their goalkeeper through injury.

(Continued from previous column.)

HIGH JUMP.—C. T. Van Geysel (Achilles), 1; O. G. Newman (Achilles), 2; W. Warner (Bedfordshire), 3. Height, 6ft.

ONE MILE RACE.—D. O. White (Achilles), 1; G. J. Webber (Bedfordshire), 2; R. A. Orchard (Achilles), 3. Time, 4min. 45sec.

THROWING THE DISCUS.—C. P. Best (Achilles), 199ft. 9in., 1; F. A. M. Webster (Bedfordshire), 201ft., 2.

120YARDS HURDLE.—Lord Burghley (Achilles), 1; H. P. Bower (Achilles), 2; A. H. O. Moll (Bedfordshire), 3.

POLE JUMP.—T. R. Scott (Achilles), 16ft., 1; O. G. Croeland (Bedfordshire), 9ft., 2; K. A. Mackintosh (Bedfordshire), 3.

HALF-MILE RACE.—D. G. A. Lowe (Achilles) and K. W. Carr (Achilles) dead-heated for first place.

THROWING THE JAVELIN.—J. Dalrymple (Bedfordshire), 178ft. 9in., 1; F. A. M. Webster (Bedfordshire), 2; Lord Burghley (Achilles), 3.

440 YARDS RACE.—J. W. J. Rinkel (Achilles), 1; N. R. Ramsay (Bedfordshire), 2; R. A. Orchard (Achilles), 3. Time, 55 3/4sec.

LONG JUMP.—V. B. V. Powell (Achilles), 21ft. 5in., 1; G. J. Oddie (Bedfordshire), 20ft. 11in., 2; C. Newman (Achilles), 3.

MEDLEY RACE.—Achilles (H. B. Stallard, A. C. Lowe, H. Bagnell-Oakley, and E. H. Fryer) won easily from Bedfordshire (N. Ramsay, F. K. Robinson, A. R. Alston, and H. J. Keep).

THREE MILES RACE.—T. O. Fooks (Achilles), 1; B. C. V. Oddie (Bedfordshire), 2. Time, 15min. 24sec.

Result. — ACHILLES 51pts., BEDFORDSHIRE 5pts.

a clear goal to shoot at, and in spite of Till's leap to save, the first goal was scored. The second goal came 25 minutes later, and was due to an official error. In an attack by Norwich, Purdy ran out and kicked the ball against an opponent, from whom it went behind the goal-line. The referee awarded a corner kick, and a scrumage resulted. Two or three of the Town players were at fault in not kicking away first time, and BANKS happened to be in the right spot when a loose ball came his way, and Purdy had no chance to save.

It was a hard game throughout, and I attribute Norwich's success to their

GO-AHEAD METHODS

in the second half. Down the slope they came pell-mell, big kicks, hard kicks, and fast chasing of ball or opponent. There was not the understanding among the "Canaries" that characterised the Town's play, but determination and enthusiasm carried them through. Frankly, I think that one, certainly, and probably both shots that found the net in the first half would have scored if Purdy had not been meddled with, but the zeal of Jackson and Banks outran their discretion, and they were rightly penalised. It was hard luck for Duffus that he should have been spoiled of a couple of goals. The home halves had a penchant for popping in dropping shots, and Purdy was not comfortable in meeting them. He is not so confident as before the debacle at New Cross. He made good saves, but his habit of pulling down the ball

MARRED HIS DISPLAY.

The backs were good enough. Till was invariably the master of Banks, and the fact that the latter scored the goals is no reflection upon either back, for the old "Spur" held a roving commission, and was more often out of place than not. In the first half the Town halves held the home forwards splendidly, and seldom were Graham and Till troubled, but in the second period the backs had a grumbling time. Both kicked and tackled finely. The middle men did not stand the strain of the second half so well. They were a level lot, and, as a lipe, played better than in the previous away match. Millar again showed his best, and Neal was

BETTER THAN USUAL

until the last 20 minutes, when the home left wing went "a bit mad" and played far above their previous showing. Rennie once more pleased by the manner in which he whipped the ball out to the wings. Time after time he opened out the game with delightful swinging passes, and some of his cool tackling and neat dispossession evoked gasps from the crowd, especially in the first half. Had he the strength and resolution of Martin in defence he would be a great pivot. Only in this aspect, much needed in this type of football, is he lacking, and I am bound to say that he brought to bear a little more vigour on Saturday than hitherto, though not enough to quell the swagger of Banks.

The forwards in approach played

ATTRACTIVE FOOTBALL.

Jim Thompson led the line with all his vim and strength. Slow off the mark, as usual, nevertheless he kept the home backs in a state of nervousness. This feature of his play and the great strength he exerts in the goal area amply compensate for other deficiencies. He might have got the ball out to the wings more often, though he gave some nice passes, but the ball was not returned often enough from the wingers. Like Agnew, he had hard luck with his shooting, and I have never seen the former shoot better. Industrious as ever, he was always in the thick of the fray, and with Norman Thomson supplying the clever frills that often adorned as well as made effective attack, there was

SYMPATHY DUE

rather than criticism to the inside forwards. Moffat, as when he visited Norwich with the Reserves, was full of life and cleverness. He did many bright things, and only in centreing occasionally failed, not allowing for the wide reach of Dennington. Dennis was not up to his average form in the first half, but did better in the second, twice narrowly failing to do damage, and put in front of goal a few troublesome centres.

In a game from home I have never seen better shooting meet with worse luck this season, and the fact that no fewer than three shots, that Dennington could not possibly have saved had they been three inches nearer to him, struck the upright is an indication of the misfortune they suffered.

NORWICH DEFENCE

owed a great deal to the skill of Dennington. He is a great goalkeeper in the fullest sense of the word. His backs were hefty and unsparing of themselves or opponent. Martin, old enough to be the father of several of the players I should think, had no superior on the field as a half-back. He was the inspiration of the side. Banks also did valuable work in the attack, though one never knew quite where he would turn up. The others played whole-heartedly, but showed no particular skill.

In these days when referees are being more closely criticised in official quarters, and rightly so, Mr. O'Neill has his chance to make good. I venture to think that if high officials had been at Norwich he would be booked for the most exacting games in the competition. He made the one error referred to, but that was excusable, for both he and the linesman were unsighted. He

NEVER FLINCHED OR FALTERED

either in his handling of the players or in his decisions. When so many of the 7,000 spectators were demonstrating against him for his decisions in reference to the two illegal charges on Purdy, he neither attempted to placate them nor the players. In the midst of the hubbub he penalised and spoke to a Norwich player for a foul, and I should think he was the least perturbed of any individual watching the game. After the match I understand that the Norwich officials were quite satisfied that Purdy had been improperly charged, and that was the view of the Norwich Pressmen.