

# LUTON TOWN LOSE.

## Norwich City Win After Determined Struggle.

(By "CRUSADER").

There need be no qualms about the holiday matches just because the Town went down at Norwich. They should not have been beaten, and in some respects played well enough to have won. The record of Norwich City is not very impressive, and they are in danger of having to ask for re-election to the League, and so it was obvious that a strenuous fight would be made.

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Under these circumstances it was not surprising that scientific football was not the aim of the City. They did not play unfairly, except in one or two instances, but were fully intent on winning, and strained every nerve and sinew to achieve their object. Theirs was hard, galloping football, and it succeeded against the more skilful methods of the Town.

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That the Town were the cleverer side was beyond shadow of doubt, and the balance of play was immensely in their favour in the first half. It was in the second portion that their resolution and energy carried them through. They got the reward of a gallant fight, and pluck and perseverance gave them the points.

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The first stages rather favoured the home team, but within five minutes the Town were hammering at the Norwich defence, and fine sweeping movements by the forwards, backed by the halves, had the home defenders on tenterhooks. Dennington was very safe, however, and his backs lost no time in getting the ball as far away as possible.

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A feature of the attack was the fine shooting of the Town; Agnew twice hit the post with tremendous shots when Dennington was hopelessly beaten. Several times the ball flashed within a yard of post or bar, while Dennington showed splendid judgment in positioning and fielding shots from all the forwards, and intercepted many dangerous centres, especially from Moffat.

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Even so, Norwich twice got the ball into the net during this half. Duffus was successful with a couple of free kicks from some twenty-five or thirty yards range. Each time he dropped the ball just under the bar; each time, however, Purdy was banged into the net by Jackson or Banks, and in the second instance was knocked into the wall which comes right up to the net.

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Fortunately for Luton, Mr. O'Neill was on the spot, and there was not the slightest hesitation when he pointed to the goal-mouth. In spite of the disapproval of the crowd, he insisted on free kicks. On the second occasion the crowd became very angry up to the interval, and even when he returned to restart the game, he was subject to loud hooting and booing.

Only two minutes had elapsed in the second half when Norwich opened the score. In a way, the goal came from a shot similar to those that had been disallowed. Millar knocked Featherby off the ball, and did it so vigorously that the referee gave a free kick. Wall took the kick and the ball hovered just under the bar. Purdy fisted it down, and before he could recover position, BANKS had steered it into the net.

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Purdy was in no way to blame for the second goal. He sent the ball on to Jackson, from whom it went over the line, and a goal-kick should have been given. The referee gave a corner kick, and Featherby sent the ball across. Two or three feeble attempts were made to get the ball away, but it did not go beyond the scrimmaging players; BANKS met it when he was to the left of the goal, and fired it into the net.

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After this there were hot scenes in each goal, and Dennington made the save of the match when he diverted in wonderful fashion a shot by Agnew, who seemed bound to succeed with a fine effort. The long reach of the goalkeeper and his strong fist saved at the expense of a corner. Then Jim Thompson got in one of his special left foot drives, and once more the ball crashed against the upright and rebounded far down the field. So the Town failed to score.

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Purdy could not compare with Dennington in the art of custodianship. There are few that can. The Town goalkeeper, however, should cultivate the knack of tipping over the bar shots such as beat him in the first half, and that from which the first goal was registered. To bring down a ball into the goal-mouth invites disaster. A similar shot later in the game was lifted over the bar in workmanlike fashion.

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The backs were very good, both playing finely in their respective styles. The halves were better than at Selhurst, and this applies particularly to Rennie and Neal. Millar maintained his consistently good form. They were not so strong in supporting the forwards in the second half, but all three did very good work, and had much to do with the superiority of the Town in attack.

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The forwards played very good football, and suffered more from misfortune than from inefficiency. They were fast and methodical in attack, and some of the movements, backed by the halves, were really delightful. Dennis was not so prominent as in many games in the first portion, but improved in the second. All five played well together, and once more proved that they are the most reliable line at the service of the club.

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Norwich were best served by Dennington, Hannah, Martin and Banks. The seven thousand spectators were very pleased with the success, although not a few were congratulating themselves at the end on the luck they had in the first half.

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| NORWICH CITY ..... | 2 |
| LUTON TOWN .....   | 0 |

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.