

MINGAY'S MISTAKES

HELP NORWICH TO CAPTURE A POINT

"Canaries" Lucky to Escape.

(By "CRUSADER.")

LUTON TOWN 2 goals
NORWICH CITY 2 ..

LUTON. — Mingay; Graham, Till; Richards, Gordon, Millar; Clark, Thomson, Thompson, Woods, Dennis.

NORWICH. — Dennington; Hannah, Wingham; Wall, M'Græ, Dickenson; Banks, Cropper, Richmond, Price, Aitken. Referee.—W. Musther, London.

Of many unsatisfactory features of the game at Luton on Saturday the majority of the spectators will declare that the worst was Mingay's goalkeeping. Certainly there was a lot to complain about, but one must remember contributory influences to the disappointment of the game as a whole. Not the least was the rough, gusty wind, which seemed to be full of little pockets that caught the ball only too often, and upset the calculations of the players. It may be said, and rightly, that it was the same for each side, but it did much to nullify the ground advantage, which is still a factor to be considered, as a glance at the results will show. But these pockets were not on the ground, and that is where the ball should be when halves and forwards get it, and any team that aspires to promotion must needs make that

A FIRST PRINCIPLE.

Just how many passes went astray because the middle men and the forwards tried to beat opponents by the air route instead of on the turf is out of my sphere of prediction, but old players present must have marvelled at the persistency with which the ball was lifted when it should have been pushed. Not that Luton were alone in this fault: Norwich were just as bad—probably worse when playing against the wind. After the heavy rain of the previous day it was thought that the ground would be on the heavy side, but the turf is so well-kept that the watering had made little difference beyond giving a slipperiness that made foothold precarious and the ball travel awkwardly. Several of the players have been anxiously hoping for

DIFFERENT CONDITIONS,

but from the appearance of the ground there will be a long spell of bad weather before they get complete satisfaction.

The balance of play was much in favour of the Town, who should have won. For individual cleverness and skilful football they were better than Norwich, and it was the blunders in the Town defence and the pluck of the visitors that changed the aspect of the game. Even when the wind was helping Norwich the Town had the greater share of the game, but hesitation in front of goal, and inability to guess aright what the wind would do with high centres, cost a point. It was all very disappointing, and meant the loss of the point advantage held before the game, in comparison with last season's results with the same clubs.

When the Town notched

TWO GOALS

in less than 20 minutes there was a feeling that Norwich had come to the end of their good spell. Luton had netted before a legitimate goal was counted. The referee was in error in the first case, and it was hard luck for Norman Thomson that a clever goal was disallowed. After a flag-kick there was a tussle in the Norwich goal area. The ball was put out to the left: it came across too high for Jim Thompson, but Norman Thomson got it, and as Dennington rushed out the Town forward lobbed the ball over the goalkeeper's right and to the left of Hannah, and it went into the net. Jim Thompson was in an offside position, but had no more chance of interfering with the play than the man in the moon, yet the referee gave him offside after taking a few seconds to make the resolution.

It was

THE PERSISTENCY

of Woods that brought the first goal. He refused to be beaten off by Hannah, chased the ball right to the goal line, and then lifted it right over everybody but CLARK, who simply nodded the ball into the net.

Then Banks secured the ball after the wind had played tricks, and ran in hard, so hard that he lost control with his feet, so bent down and scooped the ball into the net with his hand. Luckily for the Town the referee was on the sight side of the hand, and promptly gave a free kick.

Following this, Jim Thompson made a sharp rush and was brought down in the penalty area by Hannah. I did not think the offence deserved a penalty kick, and

THE REFEREE HAD DOUBT.

but was evidently reassured by the linesman consulted, and gave the kick. Dennis took it, and I was glad to see Mr. Musther would have no attempt to interfere with Dennis' free movement when the kick was taken. To the surprise of everybody Dennis shot straight at the goalkeeper, who stopped the ball, but fell, and, ere he recovered, DENNIS went in and tapped the ball into the net. With two goals lead, the Town were

happy, but a dash by the visitors called upon Mingay to field a high shot. He got it all right, and slipped round Richmond as the centre-forward rushed in. He might have thrown or kicked the ball clear, but turned round as if to say something to Richmond, who again charged. Mingay tried to dodge, but the ball struck the forward and fell. A Luton foot shot out and kicked it a few yards, but it went straight to PRICE who easily netted.

With the exception of one raid by the visitors the ball was continually in the visiting half after this, and Dennington made fine saves. Two or three times the shots were too hot to hold, but he always recovered, and lost no time in getting the ball away, and at the interval the score stood:—

LUTON TOWN 2
NORWICH CITY 1

Dennington's goal had a couple of narrow escapes as soon as the game was resumed, and the activities of the Town forwards in these stages gave one hopes of a considerable score. Goals did not materialise, however, for the Norwich goalkeeper was simply splendid, and his holding and clearances beyond praise. Seldom did the visitors cross the middle line, and their halves and inside forwards were working in the full back zone, tackling desperately and kicking as hard as they could.

When the three forwards the visitors relied upon did get away, Mingay was not unduly troubled, for the backs were capable of dealing with anything the halves failed to accomplish, and both Graham and Till earned rounds of applause for getting the ball in single-handed tussles, and often when either faced two opponents. There was a lot of slackness in the midfield play, though the goal equalising the scores came quite unexpectedly. The visiting right got away and the ball went right across the field into touch. From the throw-in it came back, and it appeared as though Mingay clean missed or left the ball, and CROPPER was on hand to touch it into the net. The Norwich forward was lucky to get the ball, which struck his knee and went high into the net.

The Town made big efforts to restore the lead, but failed, for Norwich

PACKED THEIR DEFENCE

too well, and just before the close Banks would have snatched victory for them had not Mingay been on the alert. The old "Spur" suddenly rushed into the middle to pick up a pass, and dashed between the backs. He got through, but could not get the ball properly under control, and Mingay rushed out and knocked the ball clear.

Mingay's mistakes have been mentioned quite enough. Undoubtedly his first error unnerved him, and destroyed his confidence. Graham again played well at back, but Till once more was the star of the defence—quite the outstanding figure. The halves were a little better, I thought, though many disagreed, and there were severe criticisms of this department. Millar did well, considering the handicap of injury sustained on Wednesday, and a very bad kick in the face during the course of the game. Richards was

MOST PILLORIED,

but I thought he showed better form, and Gordon, if not robust, did useful work in feeding.



J. CLARK.

Clark and Dennis were the best in attack, where the inside men were prone to hang on when a sweeping pass would have placed the visiting defenders all at sea. At times the constructive work was very clever, but the shooting was never good enough to beat a goalkeeper of the Dennington class, and few efforts were made from decent range.

Dennington kept goal well, and Hannah was a steady back; M'Græ played finely at centre-half, and of a somewhat ragged line of forwards, Banks was the cleverest.

There were nearly 8,000 spectators.