

POINT LOST AT HOME.

Luton Town Draw With Norwich City.

(By "CRUSADER.")

Just as all the martyrs to rheumatism prognosticate rain when we all want sunshine, because they feel the warning in their bones, so do some of us anticipate changes in the Town team to visit Newport on Saturday. Directors wore fretful faces last Saturday afternoon when the game with Norwich was over, some of them were grim and determined, and with the spectators saying hard things, too, I am afraid the results will be shown when the team to visit Newport is posted.

Candidly, it is no more than we can expect. I believe that every player has done his best in every match, wholeheartedly and with a sincere desire to win, quite apart from the mercenary end of the business. Though the club is in

A GOOD POSITION,

and I do not think there is any need for panic, most of us have come to the conclusion that better things could have been if—. And the biggest if, to my mind, is in the conditions. It is hard luck for a player to lose his place because of circumstances that prevent him doing as well as he would like, but I am quite convinced that we have not seen half-back or forward play as good as we did last season, or as good as we shall see this season when the winter rains have made a mess of the grounds.

Watching the game more than ever convinced me, and while there can be no doubt that sunny days tend to bring people to the games and so make for financial credit, the hard grounds due to lack of rain are all against

THE BEST TYPE

of player the club possesses. The large body of support expects changes in two or three places, but it is not in my province, and certainly is not my purpose to predict what the changes may be, but with Rennie fit again there may be more than one position affected when he resumes—this week or next. Perhaps the directors may have come to the conclusion, if Rennie is fit again, only to re-instate him.

There were two reasons why the Town did not defeat Norwich City—weak goal-keeping and bad shooting. Subsidiary reasons were to be found in the indifferent half-back play. Without reliable support the attack cannot give its best, and it was not until the second half that the middle men gave really effective co-operation with the forwards.

THE SPOILING EFFECT

of the wind damaged much good work, but the Town were the better side in the early stages.

The best goal of the game was disallowed, for the referee gave Jim Thompson offside, regardless of the fact that he was not interfering with the play, when Norman Thomson beat Dennington. The fine work of Woods brought the first goal, CLARK heading through the inside left's centre after it had beaten everybody else. Then Banks handled the ball through the Luton goal, and that, of course, was negatived, though the visitors might well have had a penalty kick when Richmond was overturned by Millar inside the area. Jim Thompson was upset in a fashion that evoked an appeal, and the referee awarded a penalty kick after consulting the linesman nearest to the scene. DENNIS took the kick, and, although Dennington blocked the shot, the Town left winger managed to recover the ball and shoot into the net.

These two goals

SHOULD HAVE WON

the match, but within a minute or two Mingay erred in holding on to the ball too long, was hustled effectively by Richmond, dropped it, and one of the Town backs feebly kicked the ball to PRICE, who scored easily.

Dennington made a lot of grand saves this half, but the Town forwards missed many chances before they retired for the interval with their lead.

In the second half Dennington was again in the picture a great deal, but he had no first-class marksman to test him, and his height and reach helped him to frustrate all the best efforts. Then CROPPER equalised, following another defensive blunder. From the Press-box it appeared as though Mingay missed the ball or left it to Till. The latter did not go for it, and Cropper managed to get up in time to knee the ball into the net—

A LUCKY GOAL,

but good enough to count.

The Town had many opportunities after this, but could not shoot well, and hundreds of people left the ground before the end of the game, disappointed that the full booty had not been gathered. Indeed, they had a rare fright just before the close, for Banks got right through, and Mingay came out just in time to take the ball away from the Norwich winger.

Needless to say, the dropping of this point was not expected, even though Norwich had been doing very well of late. Mingay gets the major portion of the blame, as is usual, for there is little chance for a goalkeeper to retrieve his errors, as there is for any other player. The backs were great, Till again proving himself a master, while Graham did well. None of the halves satisfied, though Millar's

PLAY WAS AFFECTED

by the injury he received against the Orient on Wednesday. I am sure Gordon is not comfortable at half, and his style is that of a forward. Richards did well after the interval, and is one of those to whom the heavy turf will be a boon.

The forwards played the wrong game in hugging the ball too close, and the inside forwards were especially at fault. Clark and Dennis played well at times, but the centres they crossed were not used to advantage. The swinging pass to either wing was absent, and although all three forwards worked tremendously hard, they were off colour in front of goal.

For the visitors, Dennington again proved his worth as a custodian, and Hannah and Wingham were allowed to be better backs than they actually are. M'Grae worked grandly at centre-half, and Banks was the most skilful forward.

LUTON TOWN 2 goals

NORWICH CITY 2 „

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

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