

GREAT FIGHT AT NORWICH.

Luton Town's Better Form.

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP.

By Crusader.

Their display at Norwich on Saturday ranked with the best Luton Town have given this season, and they were most unfortunate to lose. They had Till and Woods back again, and, Norwich being at full strength, a great fight was witnessed. After being a goal down at the change of ends Luton got so well that it never seemed probable that Norwich would get on terms again, but the unexpected happened, and Norwich won by the odd goal in five.

With the advantage of the slope Norwich were prominent in the opening minutes, but Luton pulled together, and their fast, open play was much more attractive and effective than that of the home side. The combination of the forwards was clever, and, backed by middle men who were fast and resourceful, they seemed indifferent to the slope, and Dennington had more work than Harper. His backs were often hard pressed, and Luton forced many corners, but could not get in a scoring effort.

TROUBLESOME WINGER.

Aitken was very troublesome on the home left wing, and once went close with a great shot, while the impetuous Gilgun was often to the fore, though he could not get a chance to shoot. Nor could Cropper, the leading goalscorer for the City.

When the home team scored it was from a free-kick taken by McGrae, the ball striking the head of GILGUN and flying into the net. This was mid-way through the half, but Luton were playing so well that a goal often seemed probable, and once Thompson hit the upright, while Pointon scraped the bar with a flying shot. Play was very fast, and the home team's method of kicking hard and letting the forwards rush for goal at full speed did not unsettle the Town defence, and Harper had not much work to do.

So the struggle continued until half-time, when the score was:—

NORWICH CITY 1
LUTON TOWN 0

Though the Town had put up such a fine show in the first half, it was not comparable with their later exhibition. Almost from the restart they set up a persistent attack, in which the movements were cleverly conceived, and carried out with a speed and thrustfulness we have seen only too seldom. The team played with almost machine-like precision, and it was only the excellence of Dennington that kept them out for six minutes. The ball was finely distributed, and all the men came into action, there being only brief bursts by the City.

TOWN'S BEST.

Thompson shot at the slightest hazard, and Dennington was continually engaged. With six minutes gone, the goal came. Practically all the forwards had a foot in it, but the chief mover was Thompson, who persisted when the home backs thought he could not reach the ball, but he gathered and sent it to REID, who drove with great force, and though Dennington got down to it, the powder behind the ball was too strong, and the scores were level. A tremendous effort was made by Norwich to break through, and they compelled Harper to save two or three shots, but they were forced back again, and their goal was in jeopardy almost without intermission. The home backs and halves were battling bravely, but Dennington made brilliant saves. Eventually the Town took the lead. Snapping up a pass in spite of the joint attentions of Richmond and Hannah, Thompson got the ball very cleverly to Clark. The winger made a little ground, and with opponents drawn, banged the ball well over, and, as the defence was paying close attention to Thompson, it went clear of all. POINTON had gauged his chance, and he net the ball as it reached the ground, and his left foot sent it well out of Dennington's reach into the net.

THE GAME'S NOT WON—"

The Town seemed to have the game completely in their hands, for they ran through the opposition quite comfortably, and the home backs and Dennington had to be on the alert all the time. When Thompson got a fine chance from Reid's pass he shot hard, and the ball hit the goalkeeper's arm and rebounded against his face, and came out. Had the Town centre-forward succeeded then might have been too big a task for the City to get level again. Nevertheless it appeared as if they had little chance, for the Town attacked incessantly, Thompson testing Dennington time after time with shots that would have beaten a less skilful custodian. There was the usual temptation to take liberties, and the Town halves and backs dribbled a little too much at times. The equaliser came quite unexpectedly. Rennie made a bad kick in an attempted hook shot from some thirty yards out after a Norwich attack. The throw-in was taken, and GILGUN took a big kick from near the touch-line. It could hardly be described as such, but it came swirling over the heads of the defenders, and seemed to swoop down to the goal. Harper jumped high, but

failed to touch it, and it fell beyond him and just inside the post to make the scores level.

THE TURNING POINT.

It was the dose the home team needed, and the Town halves could not hold them for the next ten minutes. The ball was rattled out to the wings, and Cousins and Aitken carried danger into the Town quarters. The latter had been the most dangerous of the line, and it was he who got the winning goal. As the ball came from the right AITKEN closed in, and being unmarked right in front of goal, he scored easily.

The Town made desperate efforts to retrieve the situation, Pointon and Thompson being very persistent, and the latter gave Dennington a hot shot from a very difficult angle, the goalkeeper failing to hold the ball, but snapping it up quickly as the Town players shouted "Goal!" So the game ended with the Town deserving much better reward.

It was a pleasure to see the Town score twice in a game away from home. They have done it four times this season, and it gave them two wins and a draw, while on the other occasion the game ended in a defeat by the same margin as on Saturday.

WHERE THEY WANT IT.

The improvement in the attack was largely due to the introduction of Woods, and to the powerful leadership of Thompson. As with Till, any question of the former's fitness was dispelled by his display. He was not far short of being the most skilful forward on view, as well as the most unostentatious. He drew the opposition cleverly, and then mystified them by giving a thorough pass up the middle when they expected the ball to go to Clark, or gave it to Clark when Thompson seemed to be the likely recipient.

Thompson's form was the best he has shown this season. Just as one course in the G.F. Railway dining car does not make a meal, neither does one bad miss make a bad forward. Thompson should have scored at least once; he deserved to score several times. He has not shot better in any game this season, and, probably, during his connection with the club. Moreover, he kept his line on the move better, and gave beautiful passes along the ground. On such form, he should be the leader. Reid played a very useful game, though not with the same skill as Woods. He and Pointon got on well together, and he may pay for perseverance in the position. Still I hope he will not hesitate to shoot as often at inside right as he does at centre-forward.

Of the wingers Clark got the more work, thanks to the feeding by Woods. He responded splendidly, and gave one of his best games. Pointon was inclined to hold the ball a trifle too long in the first half, but he centred better than usual, for he seldom sent the ball beyond the reach of his colleagues. In the second half he did even better work, and was too fast for the opposition, but the small ground often beat him after he had beaten his men.

MIDDLE AND REAR.

The middle men were the backbone of the team in the first half and for two-thirds of the second. Then most unaccountably, the backbone developed a crick, and that spoiled the effect. Rennie gave a clever display with his feet, but was lacking in head-work. He opened up the game finely, and there were phases of half-back play that were as effective as they were telling. He found his forwards well. So did Black, who had a very hard task to hold Aitken. Black did not wander quite so much in the first half, but Aitken managed to escape too much in the late stages of the game. So with Cousins and Millar. The latter more than held his own until the general fall off, and then his opponent got clean away several times. Millar also fed his wing well.

Graham and Till were bothered in the early part by the quick movements of Gilgun, but they scotched him after the first 20 minutes. Both kicked and tackled cleanly and could hardly be blamed in any way for the defeat. Harper, in my opinion, had no chance with the first goal any more than with the third, but the second was one of those that always look as if they should be stopped and yet frequently are missed. He did not appear so confident as one would like him to be.

For Norwich, most praise must go to Dennington. He kept goal admirably, and his backs were sturdy and resolute rather than skilful. Richmond was a hard-working pivot, and Aitken was the outstanding forward, his speed, trickery, and go-ahead methods being the chief feature of the Norwich attack.

It was a really fine, sporting struggle, with a minimum of whistle, because it was not necessary, and Mr. Elphee and the linesmen were unanimous in their comments to the players. The referee said it was a P.S.A. match, and one of the best he had ever refereed.

There were 7,000 spectators, and a good, sporting crowd.

NORWICH CITY 3 goals

LUTON TOWN 2 goals

NORWICH CITY.—Dennington; Hannah, Campbell; Duffus; Richmond; McGrae;

Cousins, Cropper, Gilgun, Duthie, Aitken.

LUTON TOWN.—Harper; Graham, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Reid, Thompson, Woods, Clark.

Referee: Mr. P. E. Elphee, Maidstone.