

HOME RECORD SMASHED.

LUTON TOWN DEFEATED ON THEIR OWN GROUND.

Norwich Dash and Vigour.

(By CRUSADER).

NORWICH CITY 3 goals
LUTON TOWN 1 goal
LUTON: Abbott; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Reid, Panther, Woods, Dennis.

NORWICH: Dennington; Hannah, Campbell; Lamb, Fembleton, McGrae; Porter, Robinson, Varco, Moule, Slicer.
Referee: Mr. H. E. Gray, Forest Gate.

A terrific jolt to hope and pride it was we received last night. To go two years within a few days without defeat at home, a longer period than that of any other club in the League, and then to fall to a side that had looked like being a good thing for a couple of points, well, it was a rather galling experience. There were extenuating circumstances, as the police court missionary would say, and the losers were entitled to a good slice of sympathy when they lost Woods so early in the second half. Upon him as the chief plotter in attack great hopes were placed of getting level very quickly, and truly enough, the team looked like doing it until he got hurt. Then there was a gradual sag in the front line, and the third goal to the City quite closed Luton's hopes of levelling the score.

The visitors, who had won in great style at their Nest on Saturday, with Crystal Palace as victims, had to make changes in the team. Richmond was unable to play at centre-half, and Fembleton took his place, Lamb filling the latter's place at right half. Luton were unable to field Galloway, who was suffering from a damaged thigh muscle, and Panther was brought in at centre-forward.

DENNINGTON BUSY.

Richards won the toss, but the conditions were level, and play opened quietly. Pointon tried a run through, but was crowded out, and when he got possession again his centre was charged down. The Town left wing advanced, and Panther headed into Dennington's hands. The clearance was only momentary, for Pointon came again, and a corner was forced, but this came to nothing. The Town came again, but both Dennis and Woods tried to go a yard too far in individual efforts, and were robbed. Hannah handled to stop another advance, and Millar shot well, Dennington going down full length to beat the ball round the upright for a corner. This was of no use, and then Reid gave Panther a nice through pass, and the centre-forward shot hard on the run. Dennington went down to the ball, but the pace carried it out of his hands and round the upright for a corner. Pointon sent the flag-kick behind.

A quick sprint by the visiting right wing was dangerous, but the ball went harmlessly behind when Robinson tried to meet the centre. Black beat Slicer neatly, but held on too long, and was robbed. He recovered, but Rennie had to come on the scene to help get the ball away. Millar then dispossessed the visiting right wing by a neat tackle, and Rennie pushed the ball all along the ground very nicely for Panther to take in his stride, but there was no powder in the shot, and Dennington easily cleared.

QUICK GOALS.

Sixteen minutes from the start McGrae kicked hard forward on his left, and Slicer sprinted past Black and Richards, and when near the corner flag swung over a centre. Abbott ran out, apparently to flat away, but half-way he stopped as the ball swerved away from him, and VARCO headed the ball over the goalkeeper's head and it landed in the net. This was a rude shock, but within a couple of minutes the agony was increased. Again Slicer got hold after leaving Richards behind, and dropped the ball well in front, and VARCO met the ball first time and crashed it into the net.

The supporters of the Town then had a turn, and encouraged by the calls to play up, the home forwards had another turn, but Norwich were on their mettle, and whenever a Town player got the ball it seemed as if two of the visitors were in touch with him. Nevertheless they persevered. Rennie tested Dennington, and again brought out the tall goalkeeper's abilities, while a moment later a brilliant save frustrated the intentions of Pointon. Again Rennie had a try and Dennington saved under the bar.

The visiting wingers and Varco were dangerous when they got going, and Richards and Till had their work cut out to keep them at bay. A good bit of work by Reid and Rennie gave Pointon a chance, and the winger came well in, but instead of lobbing the ball into the goal-mouth he shot into the side net. The winger again failed when Panther put him through, but a hot scramble in the Norwich goal followed clever work by Woods and Black. Dennis got a lofty pass and headed the ball across goal, but it went behind. Luton were now having all the play, and Dennington was continually engaged.

RENNIE SUCCEEDS.

A spurt by the visitors' right wing, and a good centre by Porter found Abbott unable to get at the ball, but Black managed to rush it away just in time. Again the visitors attacked, and forced a corner, Richards making a great save with his head when Abbott was beaten.

The flag kick was cleared, and Luton came again hot foot, Dennington saving a high shot from Woods. Eventually Dennis got away and tapped the ball across. Reid tied to get through, but his way was blocked, and he turned the ball back to RENNIE, who scored with a smashing shot, the pace of the ball being too much even for Dennington, who got his hands to it, but it whizzed into the net.

This enlivened the Town, and they came again, Panther hitting the side net with a screw shot. Then Panther and Woods came through in great style, but the latter delayed his pass, and when it came the centre-forward was whistled off-side. Just on the stroke of the interval the Town launched a great attack on the right wing, Reid forcing play near the upright, and the ball hit the post and came across. A scrimmage ensued, and Panther was sent sprawling face first, but the referee's back was turned, and he refused to consider an appeal for a penalty kick.

The interval came with the score:—

NORWICH CITY 2 goals

LUTON TOWN 1 goal

The visitors went away on the left wing on the restart, but Richards cleared, and the Town attacked hotly. Panther's pertinacity won a corner, but Dennis put behind from the flag. For several minutes the Town assailed the City goal, and in a melle Woods was injured and had to retire. Norwich got away again, and there was a lively incident in the goal-mouth, Abbott failing to handle the ball neatly, but he got it away at last. Reid made good progress in a move to the other end, and then passed to Panther, but the centre-forward could not control the ball, and Campbell cleared. Luton pressed, but the Norwich men defended well, and few shots were allowed a passage to goal. Corner kicks were forced, but Dennington was very safe, and twice got rid of the ball when hard pressed. Three corners in quick succession followed strong play on the Town right, Panther pestering the defenders sorely, but they stood up to their work, and kicked and tackled vigorously.

A BLACK SITUATION.

A burst by Varco was dangerous, but Till managed to get back to goal and avert a black situation at the expense of a corner. The Town were soon going again, but they were missing Woods, and nothing better than a long shot by Rennie was recorded for a lengthy period.

Woods' return was signalled with cheers, but when he attempted to run, he failed and so went off altogether. A nice movement on the Town right wing enabled Pointon to lift the ball into the goal-mouth, but Dennington was there and cleared. Again Pointon centred well, and Dennis met the ball with his head and sent it against the side net. At this point some little roughness crept into the game, and Reid and Richards were both lining. The visitors were not worrying very much about attack, and were content to keep the ball in midfield, but Varco and his wingers caused trouble whenever they got going. Millar, plugging away hard, sent a beautiful pass to Dennis, and the latter went through, but again shot when a centre was wanted, and the ball hit the side net. Reid was badly fouled just on the edge of the penalty area, but the referee ignored the appeal.

THE DECISIVE BLOW.

Then came the decisive stroke! A loose attack by the visiting right wing was allowed to develop, and Porter swung the ball in; it appeared to be going out, but swerved in, and it was difficult to see exactly what happened. Abbott was appealing for offside against the visiting left wing, but they were not pulled up, and after the ball had hit the post, MOULE put it into the net, twenty-five minutes having elapsed from the restart.

The Town then lost heart. Such life as there had been in the attack faded out. Reid went outside-right, but Panther alone seemed to trouble the City defenders. Dennis headed wide a centre by Reid, but this was the only incident of note for a long time. The City got the ball out of danger very quickly, and Slicer and Porter each gave trouble when they got away. The Town had the ball in the visiting half for the greater part of the remaining play, but Dennington had nothing difficult to stop, and the end came with the score as above.

LACK OF SPIRIT.

It was a very bitter blow for the Town, but, while they deserved sympathy for the loss sustained through injury to Woods, they did not play with nearly the enterprise of the visitors. The City did not try to be clever, but got on with the job in hand, kicked hard and kept the ball on the move, worried everybody on the other side, and were not too nice in their tactics at times. They won by dash and vigour, and owed much to Dennington and his backs, to McGrae and Fembleton for sturdy riddle line work, and to Varco and the wingers for fast and swinging football.

Abbott was not the goalkeeper we saw at Southend. Perhaps the loss of the first goal unset him; but he seemed to have mislaid his confidence. Richards

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was useful, but Till was clever and trustworthy always. The middle men have played much better. Black was good in attack, but Slicer was too fast for him, as for Richards. Rennie gave a few nice passes, but was not so lusty in defence as Pembleton. Millar stuck stolidly to his work, and was the most dependable of the line. Forward, Woods was the pick, but the line never got going very briskly, although Panther was very keen, and always trying to do something. There seemed to be a lack of weight and fire in assault, and the Norwich backs were too big and strong.

There were 9,000 spectators.