

LOST AT HOME.

Luton Town Beaten by Norwich.

In the game on the Town ground on Monday evening, Norwich City gained the victory by three goals to one, and incidentally brought an end to the Town's long period of immunity from defeat on their own ground. The club have done surprisingly well to maintain such a record for nearly two years, but while it was clear that they could not continue to hold it much longer, it was not anticipated that the "Canaries" would be the first side to lower the Town's colours.

There were misfortunes for the Town. In the first place, Abbott showed a lamentable lack of confidence, and two of the goals might have been saved, while an equally big blow was that Woods was injured just after the start of the second half, when the Town were going strongly, and the attack was never settled after his departure. Norwich were rather fortunate to get their first goal so easily, but they played fast and open football, and showed better stamina than the Town. The issue was in doubt until the second half had travelled two thirds the distance, and then the third goal to the City was scored as luckily as the first, and that clinched matters.

The Town had to make a change from the team that did duty at Southend, Galloway having a damaged thigh muscle, and his place was occupied by Panther. The latter was a glutton for work, and did very well, all things considered, but there was no smooth working of the attack, and the big defenders of the visitors kept the home forwards at bay more easily than has been their wont. Slicer got a clear run to centre after 16 minutes, and VARCO headed the first goal when Abbott ran out and then hesitated, the Norwich centre-forward having an easy task. The second came immediately, Slicer again going through to centre, and VARCO kicking the ball hard into the net.

The Town had been having the better of the game up till then, doing the more pressing, and they again assumed the upper hand, but the goalkeeping of Dennington was fine, and his backs defended lustily. However, RENNIE managed to reduce the arrears from a nice pass by Reid.

On the restart the Town went to the attack at once, but Woods was hurt and had to leave the field. He returned after a quarter-of-an-hour, but could not go a more than walking pace, and retired altogether. The Town tried hard to get level, but Dennington was in grand form, and his backs and halves played hard and sometimes rough football, and sturdily maintained their lead. Then came the third goal, Abbott missing a centre from the right wing, and the ball curled on to the bar, and dropped to the feet of MOULE, who notched the goal.

That finished the Town's hopes, though they fought hard to the end.

I am not going to oblige those who expect me to run down every player on the Town side. Certainly the display was very poor indeed, and there will have to be a great alteration if matches are won. There is not a department that has risen to its best yet, and as I understand that several of the younger players put up a fine exhibition in the second eleven, no doubt the present team doing duty for the seniors, will do their utmost to make amends.

Abbott played so well at Southend that one could scarcely believe the same goalkeeper was operating on Monday night. He suffered an unaccountable lapse, and we hope it will be his last. The backs were not so good as on Saturday, but they were up against a more virile side. The middle men were not even as satisfactory, and the forwards were lost without Woods.

In some respects, it was almost tragic that the team should fail so ignominiously, because the 9,000 spectators were so hopeful of success, but if the directors are intent upon improving things, and learning their lesson early, we can look for better things.

NORWICH CITY	3 Goals
LUTON TOWN	1 Goal

LUTON.—Abbott; Richards, Till; Black, Rennie, Millar; Pointon, Reid (S.), Panther, Woods, Dennis.

NORWICH.—Dennington; Hannah, Campbell; Lamb, Pembleton, McGrae; Porter, Robinson, Varco, Moule, Slicer.