

BIG BROOM USED BY LUTON

FULL RESERVES' DEFENCE FIELDLED AT NORWICH.

Gallant Fight, But Defeated.

(By CRUSADER).

NORWICH CITY 3
LUTON TOWN 0

When I went down to the Luton Town ground yesterday morning I had no idea what the team would be to visit Norwich, but was not a whit surprised to find that seven who had played with the Reserves at Brighton were in the side, and that only one of the eleven players who took part in the opening game at Southend ten days ago retained his place. That one was Pointon. Goalkeeper, backs, and half-backs, and inside right had been changed, although, in regard to the back division, Graham had moved from right to left. The directors had used the big broom to some tune, and the experiment was justified. Loss of form is a serious matter, and I am sure that all the team on view on Saturday will do far better than they have yet done, but that they are out of form is clear, and from that aspect alone drastic changes were entitled to support.

LUCKY GOALS.

Moreover, some of the Reserves have been showing form that justified inclusion in the first eleven, and at Brighton on Saturday they played really good football. On the admission of Brighton officials they deserved to win. And now let me say that at Norwich last night the team put up a very gallant fight indeed, and though the score reads a decisive defeat, it was nothing like a fair reflex of the run of the game. In one department of the game only could the "Canaries" be said to be superior to Luton, and that was in front of goal—a very important matter. I agree. Yet the goals they got were tinged with good fortune—every one of them, and the last should never have been allowed.

JOY DAY AT NORWICH.

The journey was made by motor-coach. We left Luton about 11.30, had a good run to Newmarket, there lunched, and eventually ran into Norwich between 3.30 and 4 o'clock. A snack, and then to the ground, where numbers were waiting for the opening of the gates. Norwich had played at home in the first match, which they won, and then two away, winning at Luton and drawing at Exeter, and this splendid start of the season, naturally, had evoked the greatest enthusiasm among their supporters. It was estimated that well over 15,000 were present at the game.

Gordon captained the side, and achieved the first duty all right—won the toss! He chose to face the slope, but there was no other point of advantage than mere choice of ends, for the weather was nearly ideal. Banks had a special cheer from the crowd he had pleased for the past four years. The first advance came from the City. They rushed down the slope, and Fulton put the lid on Varco, but the left wing returned, and Kingham held Slicer very cleverly. Luton dashed away on the right, but Panther and Yardley were foiled by Campbell, and the "Canaries" again came away on the right. Robinson could not master Fulton, however.

Fulton opened up an attack on the City goal, Davies being pitted with a nice pass, and he sent the ball right across goal. Pointon met it on the drop, but the ball went bouncing off his shin across goal and behind. Back again the Town came, nice combination by the inside forwards beat the home halves and backs, and Yardley had a hard shot rebound from Campbell, and when he fired a second time the ball passed wide, but it was a good attempt.

TOWN PRESS.

Fulton set his right wing going, and Pointon made a speedy dash, but when the ball came across Campbell headed away, and Yardley's effort to give Pointon another chance found the ball travelling too fast for the winger. Graham was prominent with forceful work against the City right, and when a free kick was given against Fraser the ball got no further than Kingham's head. Fulton once more had his left wing in action. Banks gave Davies a beautiful pass, and the winger sped through and centred. Panther seized, but was barred, and transferred to Pointon, and that player tapped the ball inside to Yardley, who skimmed the bar with a pile-driver.

CITY REPLY.

The City now applied pressure, and another flag kick was won by their left wing, and a scramble in the home goal-mouth ended when Moule headed just wide, Muir being on the spot. Half the spectators cheered lustily for a goal, but that was premature. A free kick for "hands" brought more trouble for the Town defenders, but Graham and Kingham were playing finely, and Muir got the ball away comfortably.

Heavy slogging of the ball kept the home team at bay well, and then Kingham, by a brilliant tackle, prevented Slicer getting in a centre. Unfortunately for the young back, the ball slipped off his foot and went for a corner. Slicer took the flag-kick, and when the ball was turned in, Muir punched away, but ROBINSON returned it among a crowd of players, and it found the net to open the score, Muir being helpless. It was a good bit of opportunism, but such a shot as gets home only once in a hundred times.

POINTON'S RUN.

Then the Town asserted themselves. Pointon made a sparkling run, and from his dangerous centre, Pembleton had to kick wildly for a corner. Pointon sent the ball well in, and when it was headed out, Yardley got possession and drove in a hot shot, Dennington clutching the ball

under the bar. Davies was next in the picture, and again placed the ball beautifully in the home goal-mouth, but Campbell headed away. Fraser was noticeable for clean tackling, and through him and Gordon, Pointon sprinted through, but was badly fouled by McGrath. Half-an-hour had passed when Slicer got through and centred; Muir beat the ball away, followed it, and got in the way of a point blank range effort by Robinson, but the ball rebounded from him to MOULE, who tried to shoot. The ball struck his shin and came bouncing through a ruck of players, twisting away from defenders, who could neither kick nor punch it, and, to the general surprise, it found the net.

BANKS LAID OUT.

The Town were undismayed, and they gave the home team a fright when Yardley sent through to Panther, but the centre-forward was held up, and then Banks received a severe blow in the eye from the ball and was laid out. He resumed after Trainer Pikes had attended to a black eye, and at once tried to flush the City defence, but they watched him closely.

The City pressed hotly again, but Graham deprived Robinson, and then Panther sent Davies away. The latter obliged with another square centre, and Yardley and Pointon each made frantic efforts to convert from three yards range, but the ball was too elusive, and Dennington eventually cleared. When the City forced matters again, Kingham did well to block a drive from the left. Then Banks and Pembleton had a roll on the ground, and the former was penalised. Gordon broke up an attack by the City left wing, and the interval arrived with the score:

NORWICH CITY 2 Goals
LUTON TOWN Nil

With the slope in their favour, the Town came to the attack with a fierce rush. The home defence wobbled, and from Gordon's pass the ball was driven in by Banks, but Dennington was rightly placed. The Town attacked with great zeal, Davies centred brilliantly, but Pointon lofted the ball; Dennington saved from Fraser, and then Pointon put in an awkward shot, the goalkeeper falling over the bar, and then running out and grabbing the flag-kick, but the Town kept up the pressure, and for quite a quarter-of-an-hour the City were almost hemmed in.

DENNINGTON BUSY.

A sudden sprint by the City gave Robinson a shooting chance, but Kingham cleared finely, and the Town came back at a brisk pace, and shots beat a tattoo at Dennington. Three times in a few seconds he beat out good shots, but several were so hot that he could not hold them, and had anyone been on the spot, a goal must have come. A further assault ended with Fraser sending wide. Davies next had a turn, and Dennington was punching away from under the bar when Panther got into him, and was penalised.

The Town halves were now playing grand football, and all three kept popping the ball into the City penalty area, but the home backs and halves defended lustily. A corner kick was won on the left wing, and Fulton shot into Dennington's arms. Fraser earned applause for skilful tackling, and then Muir made a fine save from Lamb.

MUIR'S SAVED.

Luton maintained the upper hand, but could not get in a shot at close quarters, and when Norwich spurted, Muir brought off a great save under the bar, and from the free kick given against Varco the Town got away. Pointon was racing through when held by Campbell, and Panther got the ball, only to shoot wide from a good position. Norwich now played up strongly, but Graham and Kingham were in fine form, and frustrated all their efforts, and Fraser set his wing going. Davies dropped the ball on the top of the net, and Pointon followed suit. Slicer could not overcome Kingham in another tussle, and the Town were again hammering away, Panther once more shooting past.

The City defence was well packed, and eventually relief came from a free kick against Panther. Immediately afterwards another good move was similarly spoiled, and when the City got through again, Muir brought off a wonderful save.

TOWN ATTACK.

The City now improved, the Town players evidently feeling the effects of the pace, but Kingham and Graham were working with good understanding and cleared well, though once Robinson had a chance, but shot wide. The Town forwards had yet another go, and Pembleton fouled Panther when the latter was through. Gordon just missing from the free kick. As the game neared the end, Norwich made another effort to increase their lead, and Muir saved twice comfortably, and then dived to save at point blank range. He was on the ground with the ball under him, when Moule and Varco rushed and got on top of him, using hands and feet. Moule held him, and VARCO handled the ball into the net. To the disgust of the Town players, the referee, well down the field, gave a goal, and would not heed the appeals of the Town players. There was no further incident of note, and the game ended as stated.

There is not space to deal at length with the players individually, but in the Norwich dressing-room there was testimony that the Town had played better football

(Continued from Preceding Column).

than in the match at Luton, and the spectators were also ready to testify to a good and gallant game. Muir made no mistake; he played grandly. Kingham and Graham put up a strong game at back, heading and kicking being quite comparable with that of the home side, and they tackled well. All the halves played hard and honest football. The forwards were fed well, and were therefore in the picture more often than in previous games. Both Fulton and Fraser were brilliant at times, the latter especially, and Gordon was very sound. The forwards combined better because they got the ball better, and both Pointon and Davies showed improvement. There was a lack of weight among the inside forwards, but they were whole-hearted, and against a less skilful custodian than Dennington, the scores would have been equalised very quickly in the second half, though even then the shooting was not good enough. Yardley, however, was very active in this respect.

For Norwich, Dennington, who had more shots than Muir by a long way, did well, and his backs were useful. The middle men played hard, vigorous football, and the forwards were always trying, but they were lucky to get three such goals.

I am sure the Town supporters will not fail to turn up to support the club if a chance is given to this team, triers to a man, and workers all the time.