

NARROW WIN OVER NORWICH.

At Luton on Christmas Day:

LUTON TOWN	2
NORWICH CITY	1

Scorers:—Luton: RENNIE; Norwich: McKENNA.

Attendance: 14,000.

BY winning two of their three games Luton Town gained four points on the corresponding games of last season, but followers had expected at least five. Curiously enough, they were much too good for the Rangers on Saturday, but against the lowly Norwich City side they had to fight hard to win the home game on Christmas Day, and on Boxing Day at Norwich they were well beaten. They do not now stand best in the League, Fulham being level so far as points and matches are concerned, but with a better goal average. The Town's goal average is not nearly good enough for a team so close to the top of the table.

The biggest attendance for many years at a Luton Town game was seen on Christmas Day, and many must have forsaken or hurried over the Christmas dinner in order to see the match. Probably the splendid game on Saturday was an encouragement, but there was a vast difference in the quality of the play. The Town won, but they had their share of good fortune, for the City, big, tough fellows for the most part, employed lusty methods, and their big kicking and fast following up had the Town defenders guessing on many occasions. They were more at home on the heavy ground, and though the combination of the Town was superior, there were one or two skilful individualists on the City side, and Abbott had quite as much work as Dennington. However, when it came to marksmanship, the City forwards could not drive the ball any better than the Town.

Harris lost the toss, and Norwich defended the Kenilworth-road end. The City were first aggressive, and Kingham found it expedient to put the ball back to the goalkeeper. McKenna got through, and the Town were fortunate that the referee did not find Kingham guilty of using his hands. He ignored the City's appeal. When Fulton set Bedford going Hannah intervened successfully, and Richmond was similarly successful when Daly was showing his paces. Then Slicer was allowed to go through with the Town players appealing for offside, and his centre came across goal. Dent and Abbott met it together, and the goal was saved. Both players were slightly hurt. Play remained in Luton's territory for some time. Harris eventually sent Bedford away, and a nice centre was not utilised. Roe was clever, but overdid it, and a neat movement failed. The City came again, and Harris miskicked; McKenna darted through, but, tackled by Kingham, passed back to Greenwell, who scraped the bar with a glorious shot.

CORNERS.

The Town forced the pace and won two or three corners in quick succession, and the ball hovered dangerously about the City goal. Once Roe back-heeled cleverly, but Dennington anticipated some such move, and saved. The Town did many good things, but the passes often failed owing to the holding nature of the ground. Abbott punched away twice in quick succession, and then a thoughtful pass by Yardley sent Daly on his way, but when he centred there was no colleague up to receive. A similar pass was served up again, but Richmond put the stopper on this time. A free kick was well placed by Black, but Roe headed over when a nod downward would have scored. When the City came back Harris tried to pass to Kingham, but the ball stuck, and Dent got through, only to shoot wide. Another good effort by Daly brought a fine centre, but Dennington's alertness just beat Rennie. Again Harris' pass was intercepted, and a corner to the City was got away with difficulty. For a long spell the City kept play in the Town's half, and Kingham put in fine work, while Millar and Fulton did well to hold the City right wing in check on two or three occasions. Beautiful footwork by Roe enabled Bedford to progress. The winger cleverly beat Hannah and centred, but Rennie shot over. A long kick by Harris was cleared by Dennington, and McKenna dribbled brilliantly, only to spoil it with a pass to Slicer, who was offside. Then the Town had their bit of ill-luck, for Fulton initiated a movement, and Yardley and Bedford carried it on. Lamb clearly used his hands, but the appeal for a penalty kick was ignored. Bedford was in the picture again, but shot wide from a difficult angle. Two free kicks for hands against the visitors came to nothing, and yet another against Lamb for fouling Roe brought nothing more than a fruitless corner. Again a free kick put the Town in advantage, but Rennie shot into Dennington's safe hands. A corner was forced a moment later, but the ball was got away, and at the interval the score-sheet stood:

LUTON Nil
 NORWICH Nil

Harris was absent when the game was resumed, a kick on the knee requiring attention. He resumed with an extra bandage after five minutes' play, in which the Town had held the upper hand. Good work by Roe and Yardley gave Rennie a chance, but the ball travelled well wide. Millar opened out a way for his left wing, but Dennington saved Yardley's ground shot quite comfortably. The City retaliated and got a corner kick, but the flag kick was cleared, and the Town forwards dashed away. Black fed his right wing, and the ball came to Rennie, who passed forward, and Yardley rushed past Hannah and netted easily. To the general dismay Yardley was adjudged offside, but he appeared to be rightly positioned when the pass was made.

RENNIE'S BRACE.

The Town had found the way, however, and they returned to the attack, and Rennie forced a corner on the right. A scrimmage ensued, and Hannah kicked away off the line with Dennington beaten; Dennington pushed out another quick shot, but the ball went to RENNIE, who netted the first goal 10 minutes after the resumption.

The City fiercely rushed away when the ball was kicked off, but Black mastered Slicer, and then Kingham used his hands to stop McKenna. Millar was glad to concede a corner to prevent Porter shooting at close range, and from the latter's flag kick a hot tussle took place in the Town goal-mouth. Abbott saved grandly, but miskicked to the left in clearing, and another scuffle in the Town goal-mouth ensued, relief coming through the goal-keeper being fouled. A neat effort by Rennie was spoilt when Bedford returned the pass, because Rennie was in an offside position. Porter burst through on the City right and centred grandly, but Kingham headed away in clever fashion. Roe and Daly were going through in brisk fashion when the former was fouled, but Daly's free kick was cleared. Dent and Stephenson contrived a line past Harris, but Kingham came to the rescue. Abbott then saved from Stephenson, but the City were very persistent, and Kingham again won applause for brilliantly stopping Porter.

A rush by the Town right wing gave Rennie another chance, but he shot well wide. Bedford forced a corner off Hannah, and from the flag kick Roe headed in, but Dennington saved at the foot of the post. Harris then put an end to an essay by Porter, and with nice judgment picked out Bedford for the pass. The winger swung the ball into the middle on the instant, and Rennie and Richmond went for it; the ball glanced off the full back's

head, and RENNIE promptly ran round him, took the ball in his stride, and ran well in to slip the ball past Dennington as the goalkeeper ran out.

CITY'S REPLY.

The Town came again, and Daly centred right across goal, but there was no colleague up to apply the finishing touch. Lamb conceded a corner, but this was cleared. A free kick against Millar, and Lamb swung the ball right into goal. None of the Town defenders appeared to make a move for it, but McKENNA did, and headed a nice goal. The Town attacked again, but a free kick against Lamb was not well used. Harris brought off a clever clearance when the City right threatened, and Fulton and Black set their forwards in motion. A free kick against Lamb was well placed, and Roe headed in for Dennington to save under the bar. The City made a spirited reply and forced a corner on the right, but this was cleared, and the Town travelled to the other end and forced a corner. The whistle went while the ball was still in the danger zone.

PLAYERS.

The City's team work was not so good as the Town's, but they had several good players, and such form should not be so lowly placed in the League. Dennington did his work well, as usual, and Hannah and Richmond were strong backs. The halves were useful, and backs and middle men alike gave the ball plenty of boot. The forwards were fast and clever betimes, McKenna and Porter being the pick.

Abbott saved his side well, and Kingham was the better back. Harris several times failing to get the ball away cleanly owing to the heavy ground. The middle men worked hard without getting a real grip on the opposition, and the forwards were not so prominent as on Saturday. Roe and Bedford were the best, but Rennie did not get a lot of passes.