

DEFEAT AT NORWICH.

At Norwich on Wednesday:
NORWICH CITY 3
LUTON TOWN Nil
Scorers for Norwich:—McKENNA, DENT, STEPHENSON.
NORWICH.—Dennington: Hannah, Richmond: Lamb, Greenwell, McLaverty: Porter, Stephenson, Dent, McKenna, Slicer.
LUTON. — Abbott: Kingham, Harris: Black, Fraser, Millar: Daly, Roe, Rennie, Woods, Bedford.
Referee.—Mr. S. L. Stenning, Ilford.
Attendance: 13,000.

NORWICH followers described this as the best game they had seen this season. Probably they meant that the City gave their best exhibition to date. Certainly the Town did not give of their best, though they played well for an hour. There was a decided weakness in defence, and a lack of finishing power that was little short of remarkable considering the number of goals they have scored this season. They had much the better of the first half, and should not have been in arrears at the interval, but the efforts of the backs to stem the rushes of the home forwards were weak, and two goals were registered against them. Dennington had three times the work of Abbott, but there was not much sting in it. In the second half they fell away completely, and towards the end the game became very tame.

The Town made two changes. After his hard game on Christmas Day it was deemed expedient to rest Fulton, and Fraser was called in to fill the vacancy. Then Woods returned to captain the side for the first time since December 1st, Yardley being rested.

FACING THE SLOPE.

Woods won the toss, and elected to face the slope. The City went away on the left, but Slicer sent wide. The Town made reply, Woods slipping through to Rennie, whose clever pass was accepted by Bedford, who sent too far forward, and Dennington cleared. Again the Town made a move, the right wing showing neat footwork, but Lamb intervened at the critical moment. Norwich came down the hill with a burst, and Porter got the ball over nicely, but Fraser cleared. Greenwell took Fraser's feet from under him, and Black put in a fine shot, Dennington saving under the bar. The Town maintained the upper hand, the middle line playing well, but shots were not allowed, and the City went through on the left, Slicer sending the ball wide. Rennie then got the better of his shadow Greenwell, but Bedford encroached, and the movement was negatived. Abbott had to handle from Porter, and a hot assault followed, the home halves kicking the ball into the goal-mouth for the forwards to try rushing tactics. Black eventually cleared with a clever overhead kick. Woods got going from Fraser's pass, and transferred to Rennie who neatly tricked Richmond, and then fired over the bar. Eight minutes had elapsed when the home right wing got the better of a tussle with Harris, and Porter swung the ball into the middle. McKENNA took it in his stride at the edge of the penalty area, stormed between the backs, and shot into the net to open the scoring.

TOWN ATTACK.

Again the Town began a warm attack, and the ball hovered about goal in a dangerous fashion but the home team covered up well, and the ball was got away. A corner was forced by Slicer, but the Town brought the ball clear, and Woods and Millar manœuvred a way for Bedford. The ball was passed to and fro, and finally Bedford met it on the run and shot into the side net. A repeat order ended with Daly shooting wide. Keeping up the pressure, the Town attacked hotly, but a long pass by Millar was the only duty calling for Dennington. A bout of midfield play found the Town the cleverer side, the combination being splendid, but the finishing was very poor. Slicer made a dash, but Harris ran over and foiled the first centre, and when Slicer got the ball again he sent it wide. Dennington had to handle two or three times, and then a delightful move by the Town right wing was spoiled when Roe returned a pass to Daly, as the latter was palpably offside. Roe and Daly again combined, and the latter lifted the ball across, but Woods could not get up high enough for an effective header, and when Bedford retrieved the ball Hannah got it away. The Town right wing showed much cleverness, and Daly ended another bout of passing by sending wide.

A raid by the City was dangerous, because Kingham failed to put the ball back properly to Abbott, but the goal-keeper just managed to get to it in time and clear. Bedford and Woods made play and the latter swung over a fine centre, but the ball was scrambled away. Bedford and Porter came into collision, and the former was knocked out temporarily, but resumed to lead another attack, Rennie shooting a foot wide.

CITY'S TURN.

It was a long time before Norwich had a look in, and then Dent shot well wide. The home defenders introduced plenty of vigour, but play was quite clean. In another Norwich skirmish Stephenson shot wide. Daly replied, and tested Dennington with a nice shot, and Roe and Daly made another delightful movement, the goal-keeper saving at the foot of the post at the expense of a corner. The flag kick was rushed away, and Kingham returned nicely, but Woods was penalised for charging Dennington. The Town pressed again, and Dennington saved from Rennie, and a second clever attack, in which all the forwards took part, was spoilt through Rennie trespassing. Five minutes from the interval Kingham made only a feeble attempt to stop DENT when the centre-forward rushed, with the result that the Norwich leader got through to score easily. Daly was damaged in a tackle by Richmond in the exchanges before the interval, which came with the score:

NORWICH		2
LUTON		Nil

With the slope in their favour the Town were expected to make a strong bid for equality, and they restarted with that ambition obvious. In the first minute Roe and Daly got down to force a corner, and after the ball had been cleared from a scrimmage Fraser met it and shot a foot wide. Almost immediately the Town goal had a lucky escape, for Harris was beaten by Stephenson in a scuffle, and the ball came right across goal. Black and Abbott managed to get it away from the dashing McKenna, but there were a few anxious moments before the ball was got away by Fraser. The Town left came down, and the ball was middled, Rennie pushing it along to Roe, who dashed clean through with the ball at his toes. A goal seemed an absolute certainty, but in some mysterious fashion Dennington managed to get to Roe's feet and take the ball away when the gentlest possible tap must have scored.

THE THIRD GOAL.

From this escape the City went away, and McKenna, receiving from Dent, shot yards wide. Play was rapidly transferred, Millar giving his wing good passes, but Hannah made a timely clearance. When the City had another turn Porter was yards offside. Swinging passes by Bedford and Daly again menaced the City goal, but Rennie's finishing touch sent wide. Dent escaped the vigilance of Fraser, but Abbott took his shot all right. The Town took up the running again, Roe dribbling cleverly, but he overdid it, and Greenwell and Hannah suppressed him. Porter got away and compelled Harris to give a corner. This was cleared, but 15 minutes after the restart Dent captured a loose ball on the left wing, and lifting the ball over Kingham's head, gave STEPHENSON an easy chance to score the third goal for the City.

This took some of the steam out of the Town, and the City pressed strongly, and in one essay they were frustrated by Harris kicking off the line. Fraser was hurt in a rough and tumble in the goal-area, but he cleared. Clever play by McKenna

enabled the City to attack again, but Porter was harassed by Millar, and sent wide. Then Daly was sent away by Woods, but he shot hurriedly and wide. Roe again dribbled cleverly and Daly got over a nice centre, Rennie heading in magnificently, but Dennington made a superb save, turning the ball to the right and then clearing. In midfield exchanges Stephenson was cautioned for fouling Millar when the half-back had beaten him this being the worst incident of the game. After a scrappy period Daly forced a corner, but this was got away, and the City made a fierce rush, Stephenson hitting the bar, and an ugly situation was relieved through McKenna getting offside.

KINGHAM HURT.

Kingham was hurt in stemming an attack by the City left wing, and had to be assisted from the field. He returned after a few minutes, but broke down at the first attempt, and had to leave the field altogether. It transpired that his ribs were badly bruised. Slicer got through, but shot wide, and Bedford did the same at the other end, and then Woods dribbled well, but Rennie could not reach a steamy pass, and the end came with the City deserving winners.

THE PLAYERS.

The Town supporters were probably prepared for this after the poor game on Christmas Day, for the rushing tactics of the City took the Town backs off their game completely. Kingham and Harris could not get the hang of things at all, and against rushes like the City it was fatal policy to finesse within the danger zone. In this respect the City backs showed an example, and though it was generally conceded that the Town were the cleverer combination, on this ground the big kick paid every time. Abbott kept goal fairly well, but neither back was at anything like his best. The middle men put up a good game for over an hour. Fraser played with his usual pluck and zest, his failing being an endeavour to do too much, when positioning would have reserved his energy. Black played finely, and Millar put in a lot of useful work in feeding his attack, though Porter had a lot too much rope. Rennie got very few chances, and even Woods could not get the ball to him properly. Roe was the cleverest of the five, but his tendency to dribble instead of flicking the ball for Rennie to go through spoiled real skill. Daly and he got on well together, especially in the first half. Woods could not infuse sufficient energy into the line, try as he would, and Bedford did not get the ball over as well as usual, though doing bright work betimes.

For the City much the same might be said as in the foregoing report of the Christmas Day game.