

ONE DID IT!

M'NESTRY'S OVERDUE GOAL WINS FOR LUTON.

NORWICH MAKE A REAL FIGHT.

By *Crusader.*

LUTON.—Harford; Kingham, Hodgson; Clark, McGinnigle, Fraser; M'Nestry, Armstrong, Rennie, Dent, Bryce.

NORWICH.—Smith (Jas.); Hannah, Smith (W.); Turner, Greenwell, Jobling; Pearson, Weir, Peed, Williams, Sargeant. Referee.—Mr. S. L. Stenning, Ilford.

MR. JAMES KERR, the manager of Norwich City, told me on Saturday afternoon that his team consisted of two regular first team and nine reserves. Well, it would be hard to pick out the first teamers if one did not know that Hannah was always a first team player. I suppose Williams is the other. In any case, Norwich have a lot of clever youngsters, and, with a little more luck, might well have taken the points. I do not think they would have held the Town to a goal had conditions been better, but they were so enthusiastic, so full of life and energy, seemed to keep their feet so much better, and to be almost one yard in six faster than the Town. On a decent turf, I believe the Town would beat this team with a good bit in hand to-day, but I would not give them any advantage after this eleven had been playing together another season.

NORWICH TRIERS.

Norwich lost simply because the Town managed to get the goal that mattered, and, try as they might, they could not draw level. Try they did, especially in the second half. They had not been far behind the Town in the first hour, but, when they found the Town inclined to preserve the goal rather than try for more, they put in all they knew, and came precious near to scoring on several occasions. Happily for the Town, the defence managed to stem the attacks, and two very much needed points remained at Luton. They do not lift the Town far up the table, and, perhaps, there is not much fear of relegation, but there is some reason for trying to get a respectable standing in the competition.

AN EARLY ESCAPE.

The ground was slippery in spite of the sawdust that had been plentifully sprinkled down the middle, but, as the game wore on, conditions grew worse, and the stretch of sawdust became a stogy, unyielding mud-patch. Visibility was low, too, and, two or three times during the second half, there seemed a possibility of fog coming over the ground. Some of the supporters would probably have been glad to see it, for the display of their favourites was far from convincing. Play opened with Sargeant showing his paces, and so the Town left wing decided to retaliate, and did good work in approach, but the defenders collected into a compact body when the ball came across. The Town forwards had several shots, but the narrowest escape came when Turner almost put through his own goal in an attempt to clear from Bryce. Sargeant raised the siege with a capital run, and, from a scrimmage, Weir had hard luck with a shot that hit the bar and went over.

RENNIE'S SHOTS.

Norwich pressed for some minutes, but were repulsed at last, and Rennie would have scored had his aim been better when he took on the half-turn a centre by M'Nestry. Sargeant might have scored had he taken his time, for he nipped in when Clark made an effort to pass back to Kingham, and the ball stuck in the mud, but a hard drive cleared the bar. We did not see much of the Town right wing for a long time, but the left wing did good work until they came to close quarters, and then they failed because they tried to do too much. Once they gave Rennie a chance, but his shot was much too high. Harford had to dive to turn round the post a fast shot by Peed, who was a thrustful youngster, and again the goalkeeper cleared rather luckily. For a time the Town halves were over-played, but, at last, M'Nestry made a dashing effort, and gave Armstrong a nice pass, but the inside-forward's shot was easily taken by James Smith. Again, Bryce and Dent paved the way for a shot by Rennie, but the ball dragged through the mud, and the goalkeeper got it all right.

LEVEL HALF-WAY.

The Town had the upper hand for some time, and the Norwich goal would have fallen but for the clever work of the rear-guard and the poor finishing of

the Town forwards. Now and then the City attack broke away, and Pearson twice spoilt fine runs by shooting wildly after he had gone right through, beating the opposition for pace and control. In the closing moments, before the change of ends, the game was chiefly in the City camp, but their wingers' raids were always dangerous, and, on the whole, the blank score-sheet did not misrepresent the run of the game. Half-time:—

LUTON 0
NORWICH 0

The Town began the second half as though they had been lectured at the interval. Within three or four minutes the goal had escaped as many times, and the forceful work of Bryce was much appreciated by the crowd. Rennie once tried to shoot at an open goal after Bryce and the goalkeeper had collided, but his aim was wrong. McGinnigle had been the butt of some unjust criticisms by some of the crowd, and it was a big surprise when he opened the movement that brought the goal. He dribbled past two or three opponents, and, when the further route was blocked, managed to slip the ball to the unmarked M'NESTRY. The winger kept the ball under control as he sped in and finally beat James Smith with a fast ground shot that was a scorer all the way.

CITY'S SPIRIT.

The Town kept the game in the City half for some time, and then the middle men seemed to lose their grip of the game, and the City halves became more menacing. Harford made several good saves, and Kingham held up many advances. It was some time before the Town assumed the offensive, and, when they did so, Rennie again failed to get the right direction, a good shot missing by inches. Pearson was a very dangerous raider, and it was well he was not getting fed so freely as in the first half, but the reason for that was largely due to Dent and Bryce combining so well and keeping Turner busy. A fierce bout took place inside the Town penalty area, and, had the visiting forwards been steady, they would probably have equalised, in spite of the sterling work of Kingham and Hodgson at close quarters.

Towards the end, the game degenerated into a mere scramble, but the City's youngsters kept up the pace to the end, and never ceased striving for a goal, but they had to retire unrewarded.

DEFENCE.

It would be easy to adopt a too critical attitude, and, though the Town's game was disappointing, it must not be forgotten that the conditions levelled matters a good deal. As stated above, I think the Town would have had more goals had the conditions been better, for they did not put into their game so much vitality as the opposition. Harford kept goal well again, and made three or four good saves. He did not have quite so much work as the Norwich custodian, but had enough. Kingham played finely at back, and kept his uprightness as well as any player on the field. Hodgson was limping long before the change of ends, and Pearson could give him a start in the sprint. In front of goal, however, he did fine work. McGinnigle played as well as any of the middle men in the game, and it was rather regrettable that he was the subject of some slight barracking again. Still, he did hold the ball rather too much at times, even though the goal came from one of his "hugging" runs. Clark and Fraser could not master the exuberant young wingers of the City, both of whom played well, but they did reasonably good work.

FORWARDS.

The inside wingers were again inclined

to keep the ball in the mud, and there were few shots at goal from either of them. Renale distributed well when he got the ball, but his shooting was far from his best. Three or four times the ball was placed for him almost perfectly, but he could not hit it just right. Bryce and M'Nestry played well, and their speedy runs gave most trouble. The left winger got the more work, and, though both could have middled the ball better, it was refreshing to see M'Nestry trying to do this more than usual. His value was increased, even though he did not get all the work he could have taken. Bryce did very well indeed, but, taken all round, there was not enough thrust in the attack, though it must not be overlooked that the conditions were most unfavourable.

For the City, James Smith was a good goalkeeper and Hannah a great back. W. Smith did well and the halves were resolute and quick in recovery, while, of the forwards, the two wingers were best, and, in Pearson in particular, the City had found a clever forward.

There were 6,000 spectators.