

COBBLERS DRAW.

No Goals at the County Ground.

THRILLS PLENTIFUL.

Chances Missed on Either Side.

BY "FLAG-KICK."

As was the case against Notts County in the last home game, the Cobblers had to be content with a goalless draw when Luton Town visited them on Tuesday. Lapses near goal formed the main reason why they failed to gain revenge for the 4-0 defeat inflicted on them at Luton the previous day, for in midfield they were the better side, and they had enough of the game to have won fairly comfortably.

Just as they lacked finish at Luton, however, so they failed to gain reward for repeated attacks. Their opponents also were sinners in this respect, though to a lesser degree because their chances were more limited.

In other ways it was an excellent match, contested at a pace that was surprising, in view of the stiff Easter programme each side had undergone, and containing more thrills than many contests that have produced three or four goals. Either goal had some breathless escapes and in the second half, when Northampton had awakened to their position and were crowding on pressure in an effort to snatch a win, the Luton penalty area was the scene of constant excitement, with the attackers seeming able to do everything except score.

COBBLERS MORE POLISHED.

Apart from this, however, the exchanges contained more than a little good football, and when one remembers the mistakes that were made—and there were plenty of them—it is well, also, to bear in mind the quality of some really clever combined movements, notably on the Northampton side. In polish and attractiveness of execution the Cobblers were always giving points to Luton, whose methods were plainer and less embellished, and in midfield they did many things that were good to watch. Yet, at the end of the ninety minutes, they had failed to drive home a single attack, and however strongly Luton defended—and their backs and goalkeeper certainly put up a very sound show—the fact that Northampton were goalless was to a considerable extent their own fault.

A factor which told against them was that Bowen had one of his unhappy afternoons. His lack of ball control was his undoing, and it was largely this that prevented him from getting in a single real shot. As a result, the attack was deprived of a spear-head, and it was left to Riches, Boyle, and young Wonnacott to make the best scoring efforts. Riches had one or two very good tries, and it was more bad luck than anything else that prevented Boyle from succeeding, whilst Wonnacott, who was at inside left owing to Davies moving left half to take the place of the injured Davies, made one of the neatest attempts of the afternoon when he caused Harford to fall quickly to his knees in order to save. At times, however, he found the pace a little difficult, and the most effective forwards were Boyle, Wells, and Riches.

MALONEY DOES WELL.

At half back there was a big contrast in styles. The Luton trio could not compare with Alton, Maloney, and Dawes in actual craft, but in a powerful, rugged way they achieved their end, and Bowen and one or two others will probably pay tribute to the stopping abilities of centre-half Clark. The best of all the middle men, however, was Maloney, who seems to be coming back to something like his old form after a comparatively moderate period.

Harford and his backs, Kingham and Hodgson, had far more to do than the Cobblers' defence, and Northampton's moderate shooting was not the only explanation of a blank score sheet. Harford kept a fine goal, and the backs were a solid pair, though neither of them was so impressive as Anthony, who was easily the outstanding defender. He saved one certain goal by kicking away on the line a scoring drive by Binnie, and his all-round display contained much to admire.

Luton made the utmost use of their wingers, Haslop and Slicer, but the first-named was sobered by one or two nasty collisions, and the most dangerous forwards were Binnie and Yardley. Finishing, how-

ever, was not their strongest point. Yair-
ley missed one gilt-edged opportunity,
whilst Dent fired wide from a still easier
position.