

SONG OF SONGS

By the Canaries at Norwich Luton Fail Again

(By "CRUSADER")

WHY so many followers of Luton Town should have built upon a victory at Norwich is hard to imagine, but they did—WE did, I ought to say. I think it was because we felt it was necessary that the team should put up an outstanding performance as a measure of reassurance that all was well with them after the failure to account for little Newport. Norwich have serious intent upon the championship, however, and they fought like tigers for the whole of the ninety minutes.

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IT was not as pleasant a match as we usually get at the Nest. Several of the Town players did not relish the "cutting-up" tactics of two or three of the City players—only two or three. In the second half there were two or three distinctly unpleasant incidents, but they arose from the fact that there was a tendency on the part of a minority of the City defenders to stop opponents somehow, and Mr. Spittle might well have administered one caution before the game had been in progress five minutes.

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THIS is not written in excuse of the Town's defeat. They were mastered by strategy, what is now known as the Arsenal game, and by a feebleness in defence. There were two goals in each half, and although the City scored six minutes after the kick-off, the Town might well have done so earlier. The right wing opened out with brilliant combination, and a centre from Pease was narrowly missed by Tait. It was almost immediately after this the City broke away, and good work by Murphy ended with a centre, which WARNES headed through.

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THE City, playing downhill, had less of the ball than the Town, but were undoubtedly more dangerous in front of goal, for, with backs and halves booting the ball first time, their forwards rushed the Town defence, and Kingham, Mackey and Mittell all had to be alert. The second goal followed a decision of a corner kick against McGinnigle, though the Town players protested strongly that Warnes put the ball behind, and it was significant that the winger fought so hard to get at the ball while McGinnigle held him off, and yet never appealed for a flag-kick. The ball was cleared first time, but was returned, and BURDITT headed into the net, the ball almost creeping over the line close to the upright, after it had appeared certain to go behind.

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PLAY became very keen before change of ends, and both goals had narrow escapes. Pearson skimmed the bar with a good effort, and Rennie had a strong, low drive saved by Wharton, who pushed the ball out just in time, or Pease would have had a goal, for he had rushed in to meet the ball. Mittell also saved very well, and there was very good headwork by the backs during a fierce onslaught by the City.

FOR a long time after change of ends the Town were right on top, playing clever football up to the goal area, but there met a very sound and rugged defence. Pease had hard luck when he raced into the middle and drove in a terrific shot, which struck a defender and went behind, while Wharton made a splendid save from Rennie. Martin once eluded three men in positively brilliant fashion, and when everybody expected a quick shot and a goal, he dallied, and the ball was taken from him.

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THEN came another goal to the City, and that took a lot of the steam out of the Town. After some rather slack play in the vicinity of the Town goal the ball was kicked away; VINALL seized, and from over twenty yards put in a low shot that did not seem to have much pace, but the ball beat Mittell as he dived, and that about settled the issue. The Town seemed to lose their ideas of combination, and though more frequently on attack, their work was chiefly of an individual character. Backs and halves came well up in the effort to get through, but with Halliday playing the third-back game remarkably well, and the inside forwards adopting the half-back role, there was no shot from close range.

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PEARSON and Martin put in good efforts, and Tait had a header or two, but there was always a last line of defence that could not be beaten. Rennie made one grand effort from just outside the penalty area, but Wharton saved well. Ten minutes from the end BURDITT scored a soft goal, dribbling along the left and then along the goal-line and finally tapping the ball past Mittell's legs and the upright. To the end the Town strove desperately for a goal, but could not pierce the rock-like rearguard.

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MITTELL was not convincing in goal, and I thought he should have saved two of the goals, while others thought he should have saved another. Kingham did well, and Mackey would perhaps have been more successful had he used his weight more early on, for Warnes took advantage of the big fellow's lenience. The halves were inclined to leave their rearguard to carry the burden of defence, but gave good support to the forwards without reward. There was plenty of skill in footwork by the attack in midfield, but a painful lack of fire in front of goal, though Rennie played one of his best games, and Pease was eager as ever.

There were 13,000 spectators.

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NORWICH CITY 4
LUTON TOWN 0

NORWICH: Wharton, Hannah, Smith; Robinson, Halliday, Ramsay; Warnes, Scott, Vinall, Burditt, Murphy.

LUTON: Mittell; Kingham, Mackey; Kean, McGinnigle, Fraser; Pease, Martin, Tait, Rennie, Pearson.

Referee: Mr. A. J. Spittle, Gravesend.