

THE COBBLERS' GREAT EASTER

SEVEN POINTS FROM FOUR GAMES

CONSISTENT FORM

By FLAG-KICK.

The Cobblers had their most successful Easter in post-war football, for in four matches they collected seven points out of a possible eight. Millwall were beaten in home and away matches. Luton were defeated at the County Ground, and at Luton on Tuesday evening the Cobblers shared the points in their fourth game in five days, and thus completed one of the most successful periods in the history of the club.

The side have now collected 19 points from the last 34 at stake, and have prospects of finishing among the first half-dozen in the Southern Section table—a placing which seemed beyond the bounds of possibility three months ago.

More important still, the Easter games revealed that the club possess playing resources which may lay the foundation of a triumphant career next season.

FIGHTING BACK

The team against Luton was much altered from that which beat Millwall on Monday, but there was no diminution in defensive soundness or in the skill of the forwards. Twice the Cobblers were in arrears, and on each occasion they fought back with a doggedness which rattled the powerful Luton side.

Luton did well in the opening stages, and took the lead through Ball, who throughout demanded the utmost vigilance from McGuire. The centre-half was a sturdy, unfiring performer, and by his display, and the solidity of the backs, the Cobblers owed much during the period of Luton's aggressiveness.

When Northampton's forwards settled down, they showed themselves quite the equals of the Luton attack in combined play and enterprise.

The former Luton man levelled the scores with a well-placed shot after Dick Brown had carved the opening. Ball took a long pass through the middle and lifted the ball over the heads of the backs before shooting.

In the early minutes of the second half Northampton several times went near to taking the lead.

Binks and Melville, the wing halves gave good support to the vanguard, and the forward line often impressed with its speed in opening up attacks in unexpected quarters.

MANY THRILLS

Luton enjoyed a period of dominance midway through the half, but Cave was not often troubled before Ball put the Cobblers in arrears with a header from Cooney's centre.

Then Northampton staged a fine rally. All the forwards shone in this period, and a fast-moving attack ended in three Northampton forwards harrying the backs in the goalmouth. A defender failed to clear, and the ball cannoned off Igman into the net.

Both Northampton's goals were well worked for, and the side fully deserved their point. Indeed, towards the close they were the more dangerous side.

Considering the majority of the players were taking part in their fourth game in five days, the pace was remarkably fast and the play produced an abundance of thrills, and the crowd of 2,000, including a large contingent from Northampton were often roused to enthusiasm.

Northampton 2, Luton 2.

BUILDING UP

The game at Millwall was nearly over on Good Friday when Ball scored the goal which gave the Cobblers their third victory away from home since March 16. On the whole the success was merited. The Cobblers did not enjoy the better of the game territorially, but their defence was rarely in serious difficulties, and their forwards played with more purpose and method than the Millwall vanguard.

Northampton 1, Millwall 0.

Heavy rain had reduced the ground to a shocking state for the match with Luton at Northampton on Saturday, but the teams triumphed over the conditions and served up highly entertaining football.

Luton played a strong game and never lost heart. Cochrane scored the first goal after 35 minutes and obtained a second just before half-time. The game was near its end when Ball scored for Luton, and the Hatters, invigorated by the success, fought magnificently to get on terms, but were kept at bay.

There was little doubt that the Cobblers deserved their success. They adapted themselves more quickly to the conditions, they tackled their job with concentrated earnestness during the period when the ball was running their way, and, perhaps most important of all, they displayed a wonderful tenacity in defence.

Northampton 2, Luton 1.

FIRST MINUTE GOAL

The double over Millwall was completed by a first minute goal scored by Brown (K.V.) before a crowd of over 2,000 at the County Ground on Monday. The opening was sensational, but the Cobblers played soundly all through. There was balance fore and aft, and if brilliance in attack was spasmodic, largely owing to knee trouble which in the second half compelled Cochrane to retire to the left wing. The defence was almost beyond criticism.

Northampton 1, Millwall 0.