

LUTON'S HARD FIGHT

NORTHAMPTON NEARLY UPSET THEIR PROMOTION PROSPECTS

Luton 3, Northampton 2

(Last season, draw 3-3; this,
Northampton Town 3-1.)

Luton will not wish to see another game like that with Northampton in a hurry. Their narrow victory over the Cobblers was a most valuable one, in view of their promotion prospects, but was only obtained after play marred by free-kicks, injuries, and cautions.

The continuous wrangling culminated in Thayne, the Cobblers' skipper, being ordered off the field, following a general caution to the players in mid-field.

Luton, the home side, quickly established a lead when Payne celebrated his return to the side by heading a fine goal, and Roberts added another.

Mackey had been hurt early on, and the side was somewhat disorganised when he went to outside-right. Northampton then took the initiative, and during a period of pressure Maynes put through his own goal.

Soon after the resumption Folland equalised for the Cobblers, and a battle royal followed.

Luton put up a gallant fight, and when Parris was fouled Payne restored their lead with a penalty.

Injuries were too frequent, and again and again the referee spoke to players. This time Northampton were awarded a penalty, but Folland shot wide.

Subsequent play resulted in a general caution, and then Mayne was ordered off.