



HONEST Ken Nethercott (left), injured Norwich goalkeeper, congratulates his stand-in, Sandy Kennon, on those stirring semi-final saves against Luton. Says Nethercott: "Well done, Sandy. If I had been playing Luton would have scored four." Express Soccer reporter Bob Pennington listens in.

Can Kennon the Cat save them again?

Norwich City 1 Luton Town 1



S**SANDY KENNON**, the Big Cat who saved the Canaries, is so rightly the hero of Norwich this morning. He is also more dubiously Luton Town's main hope of winning the replay at Birmingham on Wednesday, writes **BOB PENNINGTON**.

Walk with me along the chill corridor under White Hart-lane while the white heat of this F.A. Cup semi-final thriller still generates in the two dressing-rooms to give this amazing paradox:—

Kennon, the 6ft. South African goalkeeper Luton believed would crack, is being saluted—and shot at—by Luton.

Their England goalkeeper Ron Baynham says simply: "Kennon was magnificent—some of the finest saves I've ever seen. But can anyone be so good again?"

There are others who optimistically believe: "It was just a one match wonder—a blinder by a 'keeper who is still very suspect."

Along the corridor, 24-year-old Kennon is being hugged by the man he replaced, Ken Nethercott, still nursing a dislocated shoulder.

"We'd have lost by four goals if I had been playing," says craggy, humble Nethercott. "I told you you were a great goalkeeper, son, and this time you really showed 'em."

Kennon has tears in his eyes. But the pride is stamped on the thin face of Sandy, 13th child of old Jock Kennon, who was born 92 years ago in Doon-side, Ayrshire.

THE REASON

"I couldn't let old Jock down," he says. "He was listening to the broadcast in Durban. And I couldn't let you or Norwich down for having faith in me."

Nethercott sat pumping confidence into Kennon before he started. But in the first few minutes it was as if this lithe cat of a man was twitching on a hot tin roof.

A stumble, a fumble, drew hysterical gasps from the Norwich fans around me.

And then two fine saves from

---Cup semi-finals---

NORWICH (0) 1 LUTON (1) ..1
Brennan Brown
63,500

(At Tottenham)

Replay St. Andrews, Birmingham, on Wednesday.

NOTTM F (0) 1 A VILLA (0) 0
Quigley 65,107 £16,484

(At Hillsborough, Sheffield)

Luton outside-left Tony Gregory and Kennon became nerveless and nearly unbeatable.

In front of him, Norwich were very Third Division where it mattered most — wing half and inside forward.

And at half-time Luton knew they should have had more than a 35th-minute goal beautifully headed in by Allan Brown. They should have smashed Norwich—despite Kennon.

Luton skipper Syd Owen lashed his men at the interval: "We must have one more at least."

Owen's fears were justified. The real Norwich came out fighting and thinking. Bobby Brennan, their match-winner, roared to life after being strangely neglected.

And it was Brennan who lashed his own 34th birthday present with a right-foot drive that scorched Brendan McNally on its way into the net.

Norwich were level with 25 minutes to go. And for the first time they were breaking more than even. But the last cheers were for Luton and Kennon.

With 11 minutes left, Kennon was groping 10 yards out of goal as John Groves lobbed over the bar. With seconds left Kennon, Soccer's supreme enigma, made the save of his life from Billy Bingham.

I believe Luton and Norwich will both improve at St. Andrew's.

Norwich City.—Kennon; Thurlow, Ashman; McCrohan, Butler, Crowe; Crossan, Allcock, Bly, Hill, Brennan.

Luton Town.—Baynham; McNally, Hawkes; Groves, Owen, Pacey; Bingham, Brown, Morton, Cummins, Gregory.