

FOUR-GOAL TOWN CAGE THE CANARIES

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ASHWORTH SCORES TWO AND SHINES AS LEADER

Attack Finds It Easy: Fine Start For Legate

By CHILTERN

NORWICH CITY 0, LUTON TOWN 4

INEVITABLY, the meeting between Norwich and Luton Town at Carrow-road this afternoon conjured up memories of two tension-laden Cup battles two-and-a-half years ago.

Since then, a lot of water has passed under the bridge. The Town have lost their First Division status and Norwich have improved their standing.

More than that, the Town fans who were here in fair number had the memory of two defeats at the hands of the Canaries last season.

Since then, things have not been running all that smoothly for Norwich, who lost their manager a fortnight ago. Their results until the last two or three weeks have been rather disappointing.

Recently, though, there have been signs of a revival, but there was a shock in mid-week which probably had a markedly adverse effect on the size of today's attendance in the shape of a home defeat at the hands of Peterborough in a friendly match.

They shrugged off that setback by announcing an unchanged team, but the Town made eight changes, of which six were positional though none was really sensational.

It did have the effect, though, of a complete reshuffle of the forward line and the introduction for the first time this season of Roland Legate at outside-left.

Gordon Turner, now recovered from illness, though not yet match-fit, travelled with the team and he told me he is hoping to come back for the match with Bolivian tourists La Paz on Thursday.

In defence the changes affected the middle line, where Cope returned to centre-half after missing three matches with London trouble, and he was flanked by Morton and Pacey.

There was bright autumn sunshine and a pitch that had dried all considering the weight of rain it had had this week.

LEGATE EARLY EVIDENCE

Cope lost the toss, which meant that the Town defence had to face the sun, and Standen put on a cap immediately.

In the first minute, with the Norwich defence in something of a tangle, the Town gained a corner on the left, and this Legate placed well, so that the ball bounced about in front of goal until Fleming had a shot blocked.

With the Town continuing the pressure, Fleming turned the ball through into the goalmouth from a throw-in by Morton, and Thurlow stepped in only just in time to stop Legate reaching the ball.

A quick clearance gave Norwich

the neck strain he suffered last Saturday.

He was quickly all right, and the free-kick passed harmlessly behind.

INACCURATE AND SCRAPPY

Some loose inaccurate passing by both teams was producing an element of scrappiness, and it was still the Town who had the more telling constructive ideas.

Fleming was pulled down heavily just as he was looking dangerous, but the free-kick passed too high for everyone.

A mistake by Butler in the first place got Norwich in trouble again, and Groves opened things up with a wide-flung pass to Legate whose cross came back accurately and McKechnie missed a chance of putting the Town further ahead after Kennon had pushed the ball hopelessly out.

However, McKechnie delayed a fraction too long, and his shot was blocked by Ashman, who was hurt in the process and needed attention from the trainer.

It was certainly an opportunity for the Town to further improve their position, and they kept up the pressure for a while.

Then Norwich threatened when Conway, who was showing clever footwork, beat Cope and McNally before centering dangerously. Pacey came across in timely fashion to intercept.

Not that the danger was cleared, because another cross was picked up by Mannion whose fierce drive was splendidly saved by Standen.

LEGATE TAKES HIS CHANCE

There continued to be mistakes by the Norwich defence, for which they were fortunate enough not to pay the penalty, and they might have done so had not Fleming slipped at the critical moment.

Then Fleming, sent away by Ashworth, worked the ball cleverly past Ashman before pushing it inside to Ashworth who had the ball deflected away from him by Butler.

But it did not matter because LEGATE came racing in to smack it first time with his left foot and crash it into the back of the net to put the Town two up after 21 minutes.

This is the sort of chance that Legate seldom misses and this goal certainly underlined his value as a taker of chances.

At least this new-style Town forward line was moving the ball about readily, and so far had been a long way ahead, both in ideas and execution, of the more expensive and experienced Norwich front line.

They went on worrying the Norwich defence, and a long high centre from Fleming was rather luckily diverted for a corner by Thurlow. From this Groves headed just wide.

From a throw-in Norwich made a strong raid which was finally checked by McNally firmly tackling Panton, and the Town came away again with Pacey finding Legate in a good position.

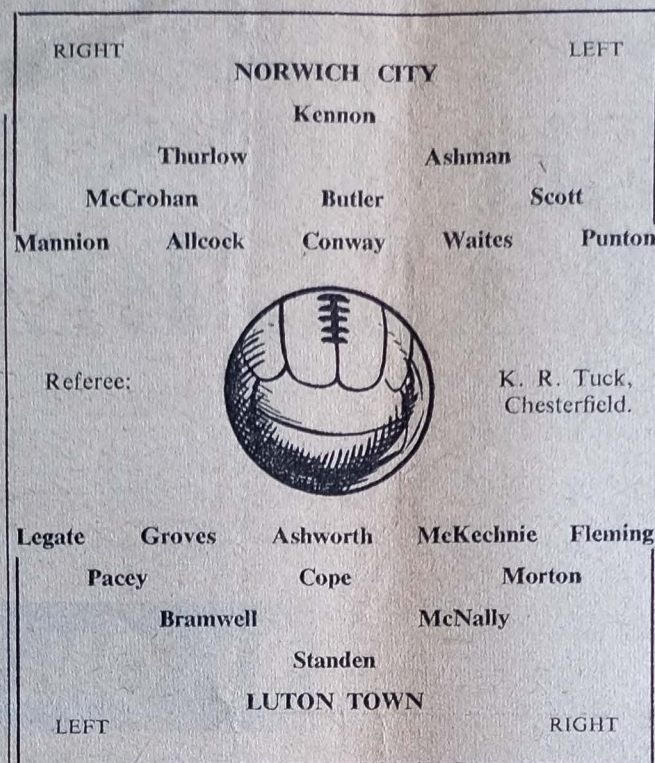
ONLY JUST TOO HIGH

But Scott headed his centre clear. However, Morton returned it into the goalmouth, and Groves finally got in a shot which rose only a little too high.

Best effort for Norwich came from McCrohan, who had now switched with Scott, though whether on a permanent basis remained to be seen.

He picked up on the edge of the penalty area a ball that had broken away from Cope after Conway had jumped for it and failed to reach it, and his drive finished only inches over the bar.

After this there was more trouble for the Town with Butler coming up to try to infuse some



drive into the forward line, and as a result some uncertainty developed among the Town defenders.

For a few seconds, Norwich were in full cry and Scott brought Standen full length with a low shot that the goalkeeper held only at the second attempt.

Then Standen came out to snatch the ball away from the feet of Allcock, and after this there was a surge to the Norwich end with Ashworth finding Legate again neatly, though this time the winger's centre carried too far and went behind for a goalkick.

ASHWORTH SNAPS UP ANOTHER

With the Town still having the better of matters, Ashworth, swinging quickly on to a pass from Fleming, saw his shot strike Butler's legs. Then McNally brought the ball right through before passing to McKechnie, but McKechnie held on too long and was tackled by Scott.

When Norwich had a turn, Cope headed clear to spoil a chance for Conway after Groves had delayed a clearance.

From this the Town broke away to score their third goal through ASHWORTH after 35 minutes.

It was a well-worked goal with the Norwich defence again in trouble. Clever work by Fleming led to Ashworth passing to McKechnie who from an angle had a shot at goal himself.

But Ashworth who was in the line of flight stuck out a foot and deflected the ball wide of Kennon.

Certainly, the Town were snapping up their scoring chances with refreshing ability and naturally enough they were gaining in confidence every minute.

Ashworth was doing a particularly good job in the middle, and apart from his goals was linking up well with his wings.

Only in fits and starts was the Norwich front line functioning, though Panton, coming into the middle, produced a worth-while shot, but it sailed harmlessly over.

A LESSON FOR NORWICH

Only caustic remarks came from this highly-partisan Norwich crowd—and no wonder, because they were seeing their team given a most unwelcome lesson.

A bad pass by Legate which found Panton near the half-way line, sent Norwich away and nearly produced a goal for them, because Panton persevered and in the end McNally shot out a

foot to turn the ball sharply back to Standen who clutched it smartly.

Then Pacey forced his way through the Norwich defence, beating three defenders in a 20-yards run, but his centre went too far and eluded Fleming on the other wing.

Good passing in midfield helped the Town to keep on the attack, and Morton sent away Fleming who made a hash of the opening in the first place by sending the ball to Butler.

However, he had another chance from the rebound and this time produced a cracking shot which Kennon finger-tipped round the post. Kennon clutched the corner safely in the face of opposition from Groves and Ashworth.

TOWN HAVE AN ESCAPE

Almost on half-time, Mannion laid on a great chance for Conway, who from no more than eight yards, slammed the ball first-time at terrific speed but too high.

During this raid, Bramwell received a painful rap in the midriff but carried on, and the Town came back strongly with Fleming laying on a pass for Ashworth who was just pipped by Butler.

Half-time:
NORWICH 0
LUTON 3

Norwich, obviously intent on doing something about their grave position, began the second half strongly, and Conway was allowed to bring the ball close into goal after a dazzling run in which for some reason no Town defender made a decisive tackle.

In the end it was left to Standen to save the situation—somewhat painfully, because Conway's hard drive struck him on the body, rebounded to safety and caused the goalkeeper, who was badly winded, to need attention.

PILING ON PRESSURE

Norwich were obviously in an attacking frame of mind, because at this stage every player except Kennon was in the Town half.

Then a long clearance kick by Standen found Legate in an open space, and he menaced the Norwich goal until fouled a couple of yards outside the penalty area.

The free kick was cleared without much difficulty, and then Mannion, right back in his own penalty area, produced some ironical cheers from the crowd by bringing the ball right across his

own goal before passing to Ashman, who was left very much "in the cart," though he extricated himself quite comfortably in the end.

Having shrugged off that early Norwich effort, the Town did some attacking on their own account.

With 51 minutes gone, the Town increased their lead with a goal that caused some argument about whether it should be "debited" or "credited." It followed a bad clearance kick by Kennon which was picked up by McKechnie, who made ground before passing to Ashworth.

Before Ashworth could really do anything about it, SCOTT came racing back, got a foot to the ball, obviously with ideas of passing to Kennon. However, the goalkeeper had already emerged so that the ball passed too high for him, and it nestled safely in the back of the net.

When Norwich had a turn, there came a free kick for a foul by McNally, who cleared it at the expense of a corner that produced some activity in front of goal before Pacey sent the ball to safety.

Clever work by Ashworth and Groves enabled the Town to take up the running again, and in the end, Butler just prevented the ball going through to Ashworth who was in a position from which he could have completed a hat-trick.

Then Kennon had to dive at the centre-forward's feet to pre-



ASHWORTH
He scored after six minutes with a shot that beat Kennon all the way.

Twenty-nine minutes later he deflected the ball past Kennon for his second goal.

vent further trouble after Fleming had brought the ball in neatly.

McCrohan was doing his best to produce something from this sluggish Norwich team who were

How The Goals Came

ASHWORTH for Luton after six minutes.

LEGATE for Luton after 21 minutes

ASHWORTH for Luton after 35 minutes.

SCOTT (own goal) for Luton after 51 minutes.

continuing to make an incredible number of mistakes, and Standen cut out safely what could have been a dangerous centre from him.

A left-wing movement between Groves and Legate brought the ball promptly across to McKechnie whose attempt to find Fleming was partly intercepted and brought the Town another corner that was cleared after untold trouble on the part of the City defence.

A slight mishandling by Standen when challenged by Conway caused momentary worry, but he recovered quickly, and then Legate sent away Fleming with a fine cross-field pass and was in position to head the return centre, Kennon cleared a difficult situation.

A hard tackle by Bramwell got the Town out of some trouble when Conway tried to force a way through, but generally Norwich were weak in front of goal and were presenting few problems.

TOWN'S QUICK TACKLING

Continually the Town were too quick in the tackle for Norwich, whose defenders were being caught in possession an amazing number of times. Fleming might have done better with a chance he made for himself when he dispossessed Ashman, but he pulled the ball well wide.

Comfortably enough, the Town weathered a brief storm that blew up when Panton made ground on the left.

Play was on quiet lines for a spell, with the Town defence never fully extended, and the forwards able to indulge in some rather fanciful play in midfield.

Norwich tried forward switches in vain, though Mannion once reached the point of heading into the side net.

With nine minutes left, Legate was hurt slightly in a tackle but was back almost immediately in time to see Standen pull a header from Allcock from under the bar.

Then came two narrow escapes for Norwich. First Fleming shot the wrong side of a post, then McKechnie dribbled round Kennon faced an open goal—and bewilderingly trickled the ball outside the post.

There was no sign of a late Norwich rally; the Town were far too completely masters of the situation for that.

In the closing seconds there was a show of defiance by Norwich and a shot by Conway which Standen who had it covered was able to watch flash wide.

Result:
NORWICH CITY 0
LUTON TOWN 4