

ANOTHER POINT BUT GOAL FAMINE GRIPS

LUTON T. 0 NORWICH C. 0

FOR all their effort, this was Luton's third scoreless home game out of five this season. The only other one on a Saturday ended 1-0.

After about a quarter of the league season, just three players have scored for Luton. And two of those, Newell and Wilson — who has now fallen out of favour — appear on the scoresheet in one game alone.

The single biggest contributor, Brian Stein, with all five other goals and all in different games, is facing up to a personal crisis that has rocked his season.

Suspended for a sending off, Stein was given two days off training last week.

He was deeply shocked after a fatal road accident involving a child, disclosed his manager.

With recognised

By DOMINIC BIGGS

goalscorer Mick Harford out since the start of the season and no prospect of his imminent return, the goal drought shows no sign of ending either, with games against Manchester United and Liverpool next on the list.

John Moore admitted after Saturday's match: "I don't know if Brian

Stein will be in the right frame of mind to play.

"Really, it's down to Brian. If he needs help he has got to come and ask me."

Of Harford, whose knee injury was superseded by a blood infection, the manager said: "It's minor irritation now more than anything else I think."

He said having the pair out had the same effect on his side as it would on Liverpool if they lost Ian Rush and Kenny Dalglish.

But he confessed: "I would be more worried if we weren't creating chances."

Luton certainly did against Norwich, although offset by the number of chances the Canaries had in turn.

Mark Stein, who attracted so much praise for his performance at Spurs, again with his delicate touch and close control led a lively front three also including Marc North and Mike Newell.

Few others will care to remember a disjointed afternoon's play, largely



● Above — another Luton chance goes begging against Norwich and (left) Mark Stein shows the style that's rocking First Division defences.

upset by the fussy, erratic refereeing of Mr J. Ashworth of Leicestershire.

It all looked so promising after only 10 minutes when North looped a shot over visiting keeper Benstead, only to see it rebound from the bar, agonisingly past Newell, who was following up.

Foster's header had to be well saved from the ensuing corner.

But when Norwich countered, Foster, who had an unhappy time in general, by his standards, was being

beaten in the air by Biggins.

And Sealey injured himself rushing out to clear from Drinkell on one such occasion.

Biggins' volley brought a double-take from Sealey in the 18th minute, to prevent it rolling over the line after the initial save.

A minute later a sweeping Hatters move saw Stein exchange passes with Rob Johnson, before setting up Nicholas, whose shot was well saved.

Luton followed this up with Newell, then

North contriving to miss from Stein's scintillating run and cross.

Just after the half hour Stein was at it again. Prompted once more by Johnson he went on a jinking run across the penalty area and when his shot rebounded from Benstead's legs Newell slotted home — the effort ruled out for some infringement best known to Mr Ashworth.

The game deteriorated in a second half which saw the best chances fall to the visitors, most notably to Phelan.

In the 67th minute he allowed Sealey to pull off a miraculous point-blank save, when he had no right getting near the ball.

Darron McDonagh made his Division One debut in place of North, coming on 12 minutes before the end.

It made little difference. And on a day when the membership attendance edged above the 10,000 mark for the first time — to 10,022 — only Ken Brown and his small party from Norfolk went home smiling.

LUTON — Sealey, Johnson, Grimes, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, M. Stein, Newell, M. North, Preece. Sub: McDonagh.

NORWICH — Benstead, Culverhouse, Spearing, Bruce, Phelan, Butterworth, Williams, Drinkell, Biggins, Barham, Gordon, Crook.

