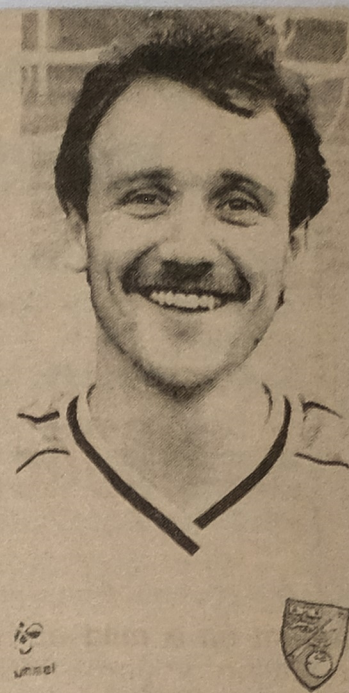


City frustrate the Hatters



NORWICH CITY, unbeaten away from home, fielded an unchanged side for the fourth successive League game when on-loan Ian Butterworth returned to the defence against Luton at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Butterworth missed the midweek Littlewoods' Cup-tie against Peterborough. Ian Crook, who played in that match, was named as substitute.

Luton, unbeaten at home but still without Brian Stein because of suspension, fielded the side which drew at Spurs last week. Full-back Rob Johnson recovered from a hip injury and Darron McDonough, signed from Oldham a month ago, was substitute.

Before kick-off the crowd were entertained by an under-15 match between Luton Schools and Lowestoft Schools. The game finished in a 2-2 draw.

Luton won the first free-

REPORT BY DAVID CUFFLEY

kick when Bruce felled North on the edge of the box as he chased a fine through ball from Hill. But the kick cannoned off the wall and caused City few problems.

Early play was scrappy and riddled with free-kicks with City caught offside three times in the opening five minutes.

City built a couple of promising moves down the right, but over-hit final passes which gave some indication that they would take some time to get used to the pace of the pitch.

Luton very nearly moved ahead after 10 minutes when Newell controlled a bouncing ball some 20 yards out and lobbed Benstead. The ball struck the crossbar and City were happy to scramble it away for a corner as Stein moved in.

Shortly afterwards Benstead looked more confident as he came out to clutch a curling centre from the lively Stein.

As City pressed forward, Barham let fly from the edge of the area but his shot was a long way wide.

Luton 'keeper Sealey then needed treatment on an ankle knock after racing from his line to foil Drinkell. Sealey hammered the ball clear but collided with the City striker as he followed through.

In the 19th minute Norwich managed their best effort so far when Biggins latched on to a headed clearance and struck a right-foot volley which Sealey did well to gather low to his left. Sealey almost fumbled the ball but managed to grab it before it got close to the line.

Benstead was then brought into action when he saved a low swerving drive from Nicholas.

Midway through the half the Hatters very nearly broke the deadlock when Nicholas found Stein in space on the right and his low cross was turned goal-

wards by Newell. Phelan came to the rescue, conceding a corner as North breezed in at the far post.

Foster was again first to Preece's corner and Benstead leapt to his left to tip the Luton skipper's powerful header behind again.

Yet again, Foster posed problems when the second corner came over and Ben-

Today's line-up

Luton Town — Sealey; Johnson, Grimes, Nicholas, Foster, Donaghy, Hill, Mark Stein, Newell, North, Preece. Sub.: McDonough.

Norwich City — Benstead; Culverhouse, Spearling, Bruce, Phelan, Butterworth, Williams, Drinkell, Biggins, Barham, Gordon. Sub.: Crook.

Referee — Jim Ashworth (Loffenham).

stead was grateful to clutch his low shot by the right-hand post.

City won their first corner on the half-hour and as Williams played it short, Spearling's left-foot drive was punched away by Sealey.

After 34 minutes Luton had the ball in the net through Newell, who pounced on the rebound from a shot by Stein, but the linesman's flag was up for offside.

Biggins earned Mr. Ashworth's first lecture of the afternoon when he moved in to stop Nicholas taking a quick free-kick.

Two minutes before the break Sealey dived to his left to hold a low effort from Gordon, but it was a half in which Norwich generally had little joy in the last third of the field.

Right on the half-time whistle Nicholas tested Benstead with a long-range effort, but it lacked any real power. Half-time:

Luton Town 0, Norwich City 0.

Mr. Ashworth and the Canaries were certainly not flavours of the month with the Luton fans as the Hatters repeatedly fell foul of Norwich's offside trap.

The referee then earned further derision when he

MICHAEL PHELAN — went close to giving City the lead after 67 minutes.

called back Grimes rather than play the advantage when the Luton full-back was fouled by Gordon.

On the hour, Gordon let fly from the edge of the area, but his effort swerved harmlessly over.

The referee took centre stage again when he lectured Drinkell and Donaghy following a flare-up just into the Luton half.

The "home only" crowd of just over 10,000 — Luton's biggest of the season so far — were becoming increasingly impatient, while Norwich began to look more composed on the artificial surface.

Indeed, the Canaries carved out their best chance so far after 67 minutes when Gordon played a one-two with Biggins and crossed to the far post, where Phelan's header was tipped round for a corner.

Luton had their tails up again, but Benstead did well to gather a swerving corner from Preece and needed treatment following a collision with Foster.

With 15 minutes remaining, Norwich sent on Crook in place of Williams.

Attendance: 10,022. Result:
Luton Town 0, Norwich City 0.