

Norwich lock-out broken

89/90

Luton 4

Norwich 1

Martin Smith

NORWICH CITY had not conceded an away league goal this season until they crumbled comprehensively on the Kenilworth Road plastic yesterday. Had Bryan Gunn's goal stayed intact, Norwich would have surpassed Leeds' record of away clean sheets from the start of a season.

But like Leeds' 19-year-old record of four matches, which was equalled at Millwall two weeks ago, Norwich saw their chance of extending it to five utterly demolished.

Norwich could not cope with Luton's early onslaught and their hopes of setting what is one of the obscurest records on the books were ended inside four minutes.

Black had served notice with an effort moments earlier when he shot wide from 15 yards. This time he pounced when Butterworth beat Elstrup in the air, picking up the pieces, sidestepping a challenge before scoring with the benefit of a deflection.

Wegerle should have added to that but Gunn stopped his attempt to bypass him by sticking out an arm and cheekily taking the ball away.

Norwich took fully 20 minutes to get into the game, Crook growing in authority in a midfield missing Townsend. Rosario and Linighan both had chances to equalise.

But after referee Brian Stevens limped off with an achilles injury just before half-time, Luton took total control and ran in three goals in a second-half demolition.

Dreyer hooked in the second, thanks to Williams' quick thinking at a free-kick 10 minutes after the break, and Wilson drove home the next from 25 yards after good work by Wegerle and Preece 11 minutes later.

Norwich were in disarray now, as Luton queued up to rub in the humiliation. Dowie and Elstrup set up Williams to emulate Wilson from 20 yards 13 minutes from time and it was not until the 84th minute that Allen scored Norwich's consolation from the penalty spot.

Luton: Chamberlain, Breacker, Dreyer, Wilson, Rodger (Harvey 16), Beaumont, Williams, Wegerle, Elstrup, Preece, Black (Dowie 57).

Norwich: Gunn, Sherwood, Bowen, Butterworth, Linighan, Fox (Goss 62), Gordon, Fleck (Allen 70), Rosario, Crook, Phillips.

Referee: B Stevens. **Sub:** R Coaten 41.