

Fit Bury staged fighting finish

*ALL ON MOVE IN VITAL SPELL:
ALMOST FOILED BY STRETEN*

By ERIC THOMPSON

54/55

BURY 2 LUTON TOWN 1

BURY, like plenty of other clubs, preceded this season with a diet of more intensive training and new ideas. If the ideas didn't stand out there was no doubt about the fitness.

After being a goal down at half-time the sheer fire of their pressure late in the second-half earned them a Daniel goal with 14 minutes to go, and one minute from the end Clarke snatched a winner that hit Streten's foot on its way to the net.

It was a dramatic recovery after Bernard Streten had taunted them with a great goal-keeping display and after they had presented Luton with a goal just on half-time.

But Bury's incentive might have lost some of its zest if Luton right winger Roy Davies had made the score 0—2 instead of making an incredible miss.

After Groves and Adam with brilliantly rolled passes had split Bury's defence wide open, Davies pushed the ball over the bar from three yards.

The obstacle

George Cummins, the Elre international inside forward whose transfer request will be considered today and is likely to be granted, played as a deep centre forward for Luton, when I think a spearhead type would have shown better profit. However, 6ft. 3in. Neilson was certainly a formidable looking obstacle as Bury's centre half.

Bury's early attempts to play football the easy way often broke down because the passes were not released quickly enough, thus giving Owen and his defenders time to cover. Luton, indeed, looked more effective in their four forward approaches with some good support from left half Shanks.

Law, a fast Bury left winger, raised the cheers with some crisp centres on the run, but I never thought they were as dangerous as the crowd made them sound.

At wrong time

There was, perhaps, a strained attempt to play deliberate football in Bury's early efforts. They hurried, but not at the right moments, and the right wing of McIlvenny and Clarke didn't look like finishing on the winning side.

Then, after Streten had highlighted his colourful and efficient work with a mid-air save from Kelly's shot on the turn, Bury had a shock just before half-time.

An attempt to start an attack from defence had an unhappy boomerang effect—it gave Luton the goal. Goalkeeper Goram threw the ball to left back Redman, who lost it and then left half Daniel passed the ball straight to opponent Gordon Turner and a cracking left-foot shot completed the Bury mishap.

On the move

Does this put the goal-throw on Bury's banned list? I think not and hope not.

Bury's revival looked more persistence and pace than careful craft, but I think Bury's bustling finish concealed an excellent Soccer lesson.

In their most dangerous phase there wasn't a man standing still and it was clear that one of Bury's strong points in a will-to-win spirit.

Bury.—Goram; Wilson, Redman; May, Nielson, Daniel; McIlvenny, Clarke, Kelly, Pearson, Law.

Luton Town.—Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Davies, Turner, Cummins, Groves, Adam.