

Reds get as mad as hatters then come goals

MANCHESTER UTD. ... 3 LUTON TOWN 1

LUTON TOWN, strangers in the First Division paradise, came North for the first time in 17 years to take a League tilt at Manchester United at Old Trafford this afternoon.

They could have wished for a stronger line-up, perhaps, for both Ron Baynham, on international duty in Copenhagen, and injured Gordon Turner, their dynamic inside forward, were out of the side.

Turner bruised a foot in training, and John Groves, son of former Derby County forward Arthur Groves, was brought in for his second senior game of the season. Bernard Streten took over in goal for Baynham.

The Denmark match also affected United, who lost Roger Byrne to the international cause, and the absence of the full-back gave 22-year-old Salford boy Geoff Bent his first League chance this season.

Colin Webster was switched from the wing to inside-left to make way for the return of Johnny Berry. Dennis Viollet has not yet recovered from the foot injury sustained at Burnley last Saturday.

30,000 CROWD

There were about 30,000 in the ground at the start when Berry won the toss for United.

Luton were first away with an attack down the right, but back came United, Taylor putting Webster in possession close to the touch-line.

The inside man beat Owen as the Luton centre half missed his kick and Berry had a weak shot easily saved by Streten.

Neat co-operation between Berry and Webster had the Luton defence in trouble again, but the winger's centre was cleared by Dunne.

Aherne intruded in another Webster-Berry move as this lively pair raced up into the Luton penalty box, and then McEwan found himself clear with the ball—only to be ruled offside.

Jones put paid to a Cullen corner with a header and then Shanks worked an opening for deputy inside man Groves, and although the forward never had the chance of a shot it cost United another corner.

So far we had seen little of the precision football that had given Luton promotion, and far too often their passes were either made wildly or taken badly.

CUCUMBER COOL

Foulkes was cool as a cucumber as he cleared a Luton attack from in front of the goal, but these Southerners hit back, and there was tragedy as Goodwin brought down Adam inside the box.

The winger had been chasing a long through pass from Aherne when he was grounded near the line, and CUMMINS slammed in a goal from the spot.

This was all against the run of the play, for although United had seldom looked really dangerous, they had had a lion's share of the play and had looked the more polished side.

Taylor dallied too long when he should have centred the ball.

Cummins left McEwan far too close to the goal for United's comfort with a well-directed pass, but Foulkes saved the situation.

This United attack was not combining well, and when Blanchflower slipped a pass through there was no-one there, and it ran on very neglected to Streten.

United's passes were continually going astray.

An equaliser looked to be in the offing when Webster closed in, but as he was about to fire his shot Aherne flashed in.

BRIGHTER NOW

Streten was then given a hand-warmer from Pegg, who was quick to fasten on to a cross from Berry and let fly first time. A nice effort.

United were looking more effective in attack now, and Taylor was desperately unlucky when, after Streten had blocked a stinger from Pegg, the ball came out to him and he put it just over the bar.

Little Berry, persistent and terrier-like, bamboozled his way through, but when he passed to Taylor the United boy was quickly smothered before he could get in a shot.

Luton had come on considerably since their rather shaky opening spell, and they were now

turning the close season. f to make a soccer tour of the We directors for allowing Pearo of th mummings criticism of th supporters who have bee But there are some But was his main value. which halves and forward line, which or the ability to link up the show none of his old spark team, but since his return he has

By

JOHN TRICKETT

thunderbolt and cut in fast towards the United goal, but he screwed the ball across the face of it and there was no-one there.

Then in the 54th minute came United's equaliser, WEBSTER scoring from a Berry pass.

He took the ball from the winger and set off like a startled hare, beating Streten as the goalkeeper came out to challenge and putting the ball into an empty net.

HERE'S HOPING!

All square now—let's hope the goal would bring more sparkle from this unimpressive United side.

Off the defensive came the visitors, McEwan slipping the ball out to the unmarked Cullen, who went close to the dead ball line before putting across a centre.

When he did serve it was a shade too high and Wood took it close to the bar.

Wood was called on again after a link-up between Owen and Groves, the inside man beating Goodwin and banging the ball across the United goal. Down went Wood and there was no danger.

A first-timer from Shanks flew harmlessly past the post, and then Cummins was likewise off the target from well outside the penalty box.

The Luton order seemed to be "shoot before the you the whites of their eyes," and McEwan shaped up for another drive only to be foiled by Foulkes.

AND ANOTHER

Irrepressible Berry, the pack-in-the-box of a winger, tried unsuccessfully to bore his way through on the right, and it was from a move on the other flank that United took the lead through WEBSTER after 65 minutes.

Pegg put the ball into the Luton goalmouth. Webster hit it on. Taylor came in to apply the finishing touch, but I think it was over the line before he got a foot to it.

Hardly time to recover from the excitement, then TAYLOR in the 67th minute put in a bullet-like

THE TEAMS

MANCHESTER UNITED: Wood; Foulkes, Bent; Whitefoot, Jones, Goodwin; Berry, Blanchflower, Taylor, Webster, Pegg.

LUTON TOWN: Streten; Dunne, Aherne; Morton, Owen, Shanks; Cullen, Groves, MacEwan, Cummins, Adam.

header from a Berry corner to make it 3-1.

Well, well, this was certainly a change of fortune, and it inspired United into playing effective, forceful football.

Webster, for instance, let loose the humdinger of a shot, a real rip-snorter, that Streten was lucky to finger round the post.

Morton tried his luck at the other end and it nearly paid off, for Wood went headlong in an effort to save the shot, but it went just past the post.

Groves had a short-range prod easily collected by the United keeper shortly afterwards, as Luton recovered some of the poise which had been so upset



TOO LATE, TOMMY! Manchester United centre forward Tommy Taylor races for a pass from his inside-forward colleague Blanchflower, but is beaten to the ball by goalkeeper Streten.



THAT MAN AGAIN.—Once more Luton goalkeeper Streten breaks up a United attack as he leaves his goal to "whip" the ball away from the feet of Webster.