

Over eagerness spoilt Luton

LUTON TOWN 2 LEEDS UNITED 2

THE band played "Happy Birthday To You" before this game to mark the birthday of Sid Owen, the Luton skipper, but, unfortunately, his colleagues were unable to give him a win bonus as an extra present.

How could they have done anything with this strong Leeds team which, with John Charles as the dominant force, threatened to take both points?

Luton did have their chances, but the forwards were too eager and rushed their shooting.

Manager Dally Duncan made eight changes, two of them positional, from last week's team, and while the result of these was an improvement, there is still more tightening up in defence needed and at centre-forward, where 19-year-old Tony Gregory was an enthusiastic trier but still lacks experience.

The game as a whole was keenly contested, with balance of power swaying first to one side and then the other.

After half an hour Turner put Luton ahead with a neatly judged goal when he beat goalkeeper Wood to the ball and lobbed it over his head into the net.

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Luton's lead was short-lived, however, for that complete footballer, Charles, beat Baynham with a powerful accurate header from winger Meek's centre five minutes later.

The remainder of the first half was cut-and-thrust football, with both teams playing attractively, but with the defences having the upper hand.

The standard of play dropped after the interval but gradually built up again into a thrilling finale.

Turner once more restored the lead to Luton from an immaculate pass by Cummins, the Luton schemer, in the 73rd minute, but again, five minutes later, Charles equalised for Leeds with a bullet-like header from a corner kick.

So to the closing minutes with both sides striving to score a winning goal. Leeds seemed more likely to, but hard though Charles tried, he just could not do it all by himself.