

Alan Collier has to prop up Luton

Derby 4 Luton Town 1: by LEONARD GRAHAM

BILL CURRY, Derby's signing from Brighton, scored twice in his first home game for his new club.

He blended in well with a County attack which had thrust and craft on the wings from Ray Swallow and Tom Powell, and a promising inside forward in young Ian Hall.

Luton's new signing from Everton, left back John Bramwell, had a most unhappy first outing, and despite his goal, inside forward Alec Ashworth has to speed up the pace of his game if he is to offer anything tangible.

His fellow forwards were not much better, and Terry Adlington was troubled only twice.

The real stars of this first County victory since August 31 were wing halves Frank Upton and Jack Parry.

They snuffed out the Luton inside men and ensured a non-stop flow of service to their attack.

Only inside left Barry Hutchinson failed to respond, but Luton 'keeper Alan Collier turned on a display that manager Sam Bartram, frowning worriedly in the director's box, would have been proud to have given himself.

Thanks to Collier, Luton did not crack until the last 10 minutes.

County scored first early on when Geoff Barrowcliffe sliced a cross to the far post where Curry was lurking. His cross-goal header gave Collier no chance.

Then it was virtually one-way traffic on the Luton goal with Collier, Alan Brown, and Seamus Dunne defending desperately. But not till four minutes after the interval did Derby go further ahead. Then after Dunne upended Powell, Barrowcliffe banged in from the spot. Ashworth broke away to score for Luton in the 57th minute and then the visitors threatened for the only time in the game. But after Gordon Turner's shot hit the wrong side of the post, County set about sealing the game.

Hutchinson made his one major contribution by harassing his way in for No. 3 in the 80th minute and Barrowcliffe repeated the first goal act to lay on a fourth for Curry—a diving header—in the dying minutes.

On this showing Derby's deficiencies are non-existent compared with those of lack-lustre Luton.