

WORRIED BARTRAM ORDERS SWITCHES AS LUTON FLOP

Luton Town 1 Leeds Utd. 1: by GRAHAM BUXTON

NO one would have thought that these two teams had been acquainted with the glamour of the First Division as recently as last season. Neither forward line had anything to offer in the way of constructive play and the result was so disappointing to the fans that the slow handclap broke out on three occasions.

It was shoddy, listless Soccer for which Leeds, who had not the alibi of having played the day before, were as much to blame as Luton who looked a tired, jaded team.

The man who had the ability to marshal this shambling lot into a striking force, Eire international George Cummins, failed and was banished to the outside-left position in the closing stages.

This was one of several forward switches ordered by worried manager Sam Bartram, who appeared on the trainer's bench early in the second half.

Most successful of the moves was when John Groves went forward from left half. He was partly responsible for Luton saving a point because he did add some urgency which was badly needed.

But had it not been for the fact that between them Fred Goodwin and John Kilford brought down Gordon Turner in the penalty area 13 minutes from the end there would have been little hope of a goal from Luton.

Turner, their only forward with any thrust or enterprise, blasted the ball past debutant Terry Carling for his second goal from the spot in two days.

This equalised a simple goal scored by Bill Bremner after seven minutes with a speculative shot from 20 yards that Ron Baynham misjudged completely. This was not the only case of error by the

goalkeeper who nearly presented Leeds with a winner just before the end when the ball bounced off his chest.

Defences were in command throughout on a pitch so hard that the ball came off at unexpected heights and angles and there was no forward capable of overcoming this handicap.

On this showing both clubs have acute forward problems and it is difficult to see how Leeds can continue with the experiment of playing John Charlton at centre forward.

He looked hopelessly lost, as did John McCole. Manager Don Revie must decide that centre forward is the only position for which his dash and courage qualifies him.

Well before the end, perhaps because of the general frustration, an epidemic of petty fouling broke out which lowered the general standard—if that were a possibility.

Luton must have been glad that they are not at home tomorrow, otherwise their gate might have plummeted to a new low.

The only players to qualify for average merit marks were the defenders, of whom respective centre halves Terry Kelly and Fred Goodwin stood out.