



It's Turner again! This time he puts Southend goalkeeper Rhodes at full stretch in another raid during Saturday's home game.—JK9671A.



ABOVE (JK9668A) — a heading duel in the Town's penalty area, with the defence well positioned.

LEFT (JK9669A)—Ron Baynham leaps to catch the ball and thwart another United effort.



Gordon Turner, in mid-air, has the Southend defence going in all directions as he bursts through during a Town attack

MAN LUTON LEFT OUT STORMS BACK WITH THREE GOALS

Luton 4 Southend 1: by GRAHAM BUXTON

SOME of the jubilation felt at Luton over their best win of the season was tempered by an incident in the 68th minute when left half Dave Pacey, along with Southend inside left Benny Friel, were sent off. What sparked off the trouble was Luton's fourth goal in the 66th minute.

Jim Weir calmly swept the ball in after Alwin McGuffie had crashed it against a post. Southend protested strongly that Weir was offside and the Southend captain Terry Bentley kicked the ball out of the ground before the game restarted.

For a time it seemed as if the match would develop into a bad-tempered shambles and the crowd booed Bentley every time he touched the ball.

The players calmed down and the fact that Southend were awarded a penalty six minutes from the end rather over-emphasised the toughness.

Certainly it seemed a harsh decision against John Bramwell as Terry Bradbury scored from the spot.

After their midweek home drubbing Luton showed a marked improvement, and their hero was Gordon Turner, who chalked up a hat-trick after being left out for five matches.

His first came after 11 minutes, when Bobby King and Peter Rhodes got themselves into a tangle over a goal kick and Turner cheekily walked the ball into the empty net.

Southend moved well in the early stages, but were frustrated by the strength of the Luton defence in which Gordon Fincham was outstanding.

Most trouble to Luton was

caused by John McKinven who gave Bob Morton a worrying 20 minutes before the right back finally took his measure.

Luton's chances of a badly needed victory seemed in jeopardy when Ray Smith sprained his right ankle after 20 minutes and had to move to outside left.

Even though he was obviously in pain he made a most effective contribution using the ball more accurately than any other member of the front line.

The game was still in the balance until the 54th minute when Tommy McKechnie was pulled down by Costello and Turner scored from the penalty spot.

Turner's hat-trick was completed five minutes later with a header. It must have been a heartwarming occasion for this long-service forward.

On this showing, Luton cannot afford to keep him in the back-ground, but despite their four goals they still need forward reinforcement, a fact that was underlined by the absence of three directors on scouting missions.