



● Luton goalkeeper Ron Baynham leaps to save a shot from Bournemouth's Billy Coxon at Dean Court.

LUTON DEFENCE BLUNDERS COST THEM THE POINTS

Bournemouth 4 Luton 0; by FRANK WALTON

BOURNEMOUTH deflated Luton with three first-half goals. But, although the first came from a typical drive by Billy Coxon, the other two were gifts. First, McBain headed into his own net and then, with three minutes to go to half-time, centre-half Fincham presented Bournemouth with another give-away goal.

With plenty of space to clear, the Luton centre half hammered the ball straight at the advancing Woods. The Bournemouth forward recovered quickly and guided the ball past surprised Baynham.

Bournemouth's attack was full of hard-hitting surprises for Luton and none hit harder than Coxon.

Baynham did not stand a chance after eight minutes when Coxon blasted the ball in from the edge of the area. Two minutes later Coxon shot from 40 yards and such was the force behind his effort that Baynham could gather it only at the second attempt.

Good start

Luton started as if they would tear the Bournemouth defence in ribbons. And for a time they looked like achieving their object.

Best was forced to save at the foot of a post from Pleat and then over-anxious Bolton brought down McKechnie. Fortunately for Bournemouth the referee ignored appeals for a penalty.

With Bournemouth in the lead Luton were doubly unlucky. First, half-back Lowndes beat Best only to see his shot hit the bar. Then, after 16 minutes McBain, in attempting to head back to his

keeper, put the ball into his own net.

For three minutes after the 30th minute Luton were without Lowndes, who limped off injured. But before this Luton were already in trouble.

Baynham was in almost perpetual motion as he dived right, left and centre to repel the efforts of the Bournemouth forwards.

At this stage the best Luton could offer was a weak shot from Pacey which rolled past the post. And when, shortly before half-time, Luton did threaten danger, Best came to the rescue. Pleat cut the ball across the Bournemouth goal but the Bournemouth goalkeeper swiftly dived and picked the ball off the feet of two Luton forwards.

Pleat, Luton's best forward, twice had chances to score in the second half. First, he was robbed by Compton just in time and then, when he left Nelson standing, the winger's shot was hopelessly wide.

Reeves, the Bournemouth leader, just missed the bar but, with eight minutes to go, he hit it. Then Woods, backing up, slammed the rebound into the net.