

No-punch Luton fade away

by ROBIN GREEN 65/66

Aldershot 3 Luton 1

ALDERSHOT stormed through the second half to collect their first victory of the season—and show signs of developing into a combination that could be a match for anything in the Fourth Division.

But Luton produced the first shock after only six minutes when substitute Bruce Rioch was called on to replace left-winger Ray Whittaker.

Whittaker pulled up sharply after chasing a loose ball in the first minute. He hobbled across to the trainer's bench saying he had pulled a muscle.

He was told to carry on—but after the same thing happened again five minutes later he spoke to referee H. D. Davies (Cardiff).

Skipper Matt Woods was called over and Whittaker went on.

Three minutes later Luton went ahead. Goalkeeper Davy Jones misjudged an easy-looking lob—and John O'Rourke scored.

But Aldershot were soon level. A high cross from Alan Burton was nodded towards goal by centre-forward Jack Howarth only for Woods to clear off the line.

Fizzled out

But the ball bounced only as far as Peter Kearns who made no mistake.

With Gunter taking a grip on the young centre forward, Luton's attack fizzled out. Even so Aldershot were unable to get their noses in front until the 54th minute.

Full-back Ron Davies sent a fine pass to Burton who had wandered over to the left wing.

Woods moved to meet the danger and although he blocked the centre Bobby Howfield moved quickly and Jack Howarth stabbed the ball home.

The goal in the 75th minute was an even better effort. Tony Priscott dashed through a wall of Luton defenders to meet Howfield's free-kick and head into the roof of the net.

Luton were disappointing. O'Rourke was easily held after that initial burst and none of the other forwards backed punch.