

LUTON HIT FIVE THEN EASE UP

by PETER GILL

Luton 5 Barnsley 4

GOALS are not a commodity that one has associated with Kenilworth Road in the recent past, but they are coming thick and fast these days.

In three days supporters have seen the ball in the net 16 times, and from the credit point of view Luton have collected four badly needed points, but manager George Martin is viewing somewhat sourly the way in which goals are being conceded.

Certainly Luton, after a brilliant start, should never have allowed themselves to become in the position of having any doubt about victory.

It did not really amount to that because Barnsley's last goal from Ferguson did not come until the dying seconds of injury time.

Stark, Whittaker, Read, and O'Rourke all flashed the ball past the bewildered Ray Ironside, who has to shoulder the blame for two of the goals.

Having put themselves in such an impregnable position, Luton proceeded to let Barnsley off the hook because they seemed to think it was all too easy and became over-elaborate in midfield.

There was not the incisive drive from behind that there should have been for the forwards, and Barnsley's attack which had always needed careful watching suddenly struck.

Clever goal

Bettany found a gap to score a clever goal and then close to half-time Ferguson scored easily after Hewitt had hit the bar. No danger signals were flying for Luton even then and the start of the second-half was a curiously drab affair after the earlier thrills.

Suddenly Tony Read livened up things with a glorious goal, but before Luton had time to congratulate themselves Kerr cut the gap again.

Barnsley showed plenty of determination and fight which lesser sides would have found difficult after their shocking start. Even at 5-3 and only minutes left they were still striving and George Kerr, well on the goal path, was carried off after colliding with Colin Tinsley.

Laurie Murphy came on for a brief period of substitution and it was after Kerr left that Barnsley's fourth goal arrived. Afterwards it was said that Kerr's leg injury is no more than severe bruising.