

Luton upset by Earnshaw drive

Barnsley 2 Luton 1: by HARRY WATSON

IN CURRENT Soccer 'fashion the teams battled in 4-2-4 and 4-3-3, but in the end the Barnsley bulldog spirit settled the result. The win was their first of the season, but they have played much better and lost.

Luton, Graham French apart, never looked as though they would end up with anything better than a draw. They did their best work in midfield, but it rarely carried conviction.

It was never a rugged game, but two players left the field to be replaced by substitutes.

In the 17th minute tearaway winger Bob Earnshaw took over from amateur centre-forward John Briscoe, who injured an ankle. Earnshaw pumped life and power into the drooping Barnsley team.

His reward came in the 29th minute when he sent the ball scorching across the middle for Barry Murphy, who had switched from full-back to the attack, to jab into the net.

ON THE MOVE

French, who had been keeping Luton on the move, scooped up a forward pass to John Moore in the 57th minute and, although challenged by two defenders, Moore swept the ball home for the equaliser. But in the 62nd minute Bob Parker forced the ball towards goal, and Earnshaw hammered it into the net.

There was not a great deal to choose between the teams. Tony Read produced some neat saves, and right-back Freddie Jardine's covering was a feature of a solid Town rearguard.

But there was little power in the forward line, and 11 minutes from the end left-winger Ray Whittaker was carried off with an injured knee, which needed two stitches.