

TOWN LOSE BUT EARN THE CHEERS

**LEEDS 3
LUTON 1**
**BY ROGER
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IT SPEAKS well for the lower ranks of English soccer when a fourth Division side visit a First Division team and are applauded off the field after playing first class football.

This happened to Luton Town last night when they were beaten by Leeds United after holding the Yorkshire men for an hour in this League Cup second round tie at Elland Road.

When a hard side from the top meets a hard side from the bottom, sparks can be expected to fly. Although there were two penalties last night this was a gentlemanly game played by men.



Without forwards French and Green, Luton had to rely on defence and hope for a replay at Kenilworth Road. Max Dougan returned from injury and played a rearguard role in the No 9 shirt.

Awesome

Bristling with internationals they found Luton a far better side than they expected. Former Luton player and manager, Syd Owen, now coach at Leeds, would have been proud of his old side. But he was away forward hunting and missed the game.

Luton must count themselves lucky that England's Jack Charlton had an off night. His passing was atrocious — but even off-form he is an awesome player. There is a rumble of expectancy through the crowd as he moves upfield with the ball.

Billy Bremner, the fiery Scot, also had a quiet start. But after the interval he never stopped running and carved openings at will.

Lorimer put Leeds ahead in the 58th minute when all hope of a goal seemed remote. His shot entered the net via a defender and a post after Luton failed to clear a Bremner free kick which was parried on the edge of the penalty box.

EVENING POST
13-9-67

For the first half, Luton completely contained mighty Leeds and often won cheers from the crowd with their clever, close football which they used both to get out of trouble and to approach goal.

In the end, Leeds fully deserved to win. Their third goal two minutes from time by right winger Peter Lorimer was superb. But it took a deflection and a penalty goal to underline their superiority.

No one can deny that Leeds were the better side. But Luton did all they were asked. That was to play defensively — for a replay.

And how close a replay looked at one stage. There was no score at half-time and Luton were giving as good as they got.

Leeds have made an unimpressive start to the season and before last night had only scored four times in seven games. In an attempt to shake off the blues, they played their full-strength side against Luton.

beaten all the way. Kneeling Gary Sprake, Leeds goalkeeper, was beaten all ends up by the penalty taken by Ray Whittaker. It's Luton's first and only goal.



RAY WHITTAKER

Leeds 3 Luton 1



ALLAN BROWN'S Luton boys can feel pleased with their showing at Elland Road. Inside left Bruce Rioch gave the Leeds defence a lot of trouble while the Luton defenders stuck to their task doggedly.

Opportunist Peter Lorimer grabbed a hat-trick eventually to scuttle brave Luton. His first shot hit a defender and then cannoned in off a post; his second came from the spot, but his third was a beauty. Ray Whittaker scored from the spot for Luton.

**DAILY
EXPRESS**
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Four minutes later, Luton were level. For some obscure reason Welsh international goalkeeper Gary Sprake fouled Mickey Brown — on his own in the penalty area — and Luton were awarded a penalty from which Ray Whittaker scored.

Great goal

Unexpectedly back on terms, Luton continued to play cool football which made them look as good as the stars they were up against.

Then in the 67th minute, John Moore, who played a great game, handled an awkwardly bouncing ball in the area and Lorimer converted the second penalty with little trouble.

Lorimer was far and away the best Leeds forward. His boss Don Revie missed his performance as he was in London looking for new life for his attack.

Lorimer completed his hat-trick two minutes from the end with a great goal. Substitute Johnson, who came on for Belfitt in the second half, took the ball down the right, centred, and Lorimer leapt high to kick the ball first time past Read.

There was not a weak link in the Luton side. Read was always master of his penalty area and backs Hare and Jardine played exceptionally well; particularly Jardine who had Lorimer to look after.

Branston and Moore were stars of the half back line, though both Dougan and McDerment put in busy performances against the mobile mid-field play of Leeds.

Solo dash

Keith Allen and Brown were given roaming commissions and they certainly harassed the strong Leeds defence. They both created scoring chances and were prepared to drop back in defence whenever necessary.

Whittaker had a bright night on the left. He had one of those nights when everything goes right and twice he beat his man with deft backheel overhead flicks.

That leaves Bruce Rioch. This player almost sowed things up for Luton just after half-time when he raced through on his own to beat Charlton and Co in a 40-yard dash. Sprake did well to turn his hard shot round for a corner.

Had Rioch scored, it might well have been a story with a different ending.

A spectator in the stand summed the game up well when he said: "It's laughable to think Luton are in the Fourth Division and Leeds in the First. His Luton team will go far."

It will if it plays like it did in Yorkshire last night.

LUTON: Read, Hare, Jardine; McDerment, Branston, Moore; Brown, Allen, Dougan, Rioch, Whittaker. Sub—Slough.

LEEDS: Sprake; Reaney, Bell, Bremner, Charlton, Hunter; Lorimer, Belfitt. (Sub Johnson); Greenhoff, Gray, Cooper.