

PENALTY-ACE LEE FINDS JUST THE RIGHT SPOT

Blues don't get all

their own way...

FRANCIS LEE shot Manchester City into the lead with a 26th minute penalty against Luton in a tingling third-round FA Cup-tie at Maine Road this afternoon.

The Blues would have been in an even more commanding position but for two particularly fine saves by the Third Division side's plucky goalkeeper, Sandy Davie.

In the 13th minute, Davie spectacularly punched behind a great shot from Pardoe, then, in the 25th minute, he blocked another powerful drive from Alan Oakes.

But 60 seconds later, Davie had no chance when LEE fiercely lashed in his penalty kick after being brought down by John Moore.

City monopolised the first half, although Luton must be applauded for the game way in which they were always prepared to hit back and have a go themselves.

City's only change was Bobby Owen for the injured Mike Summerbee at centre forward.

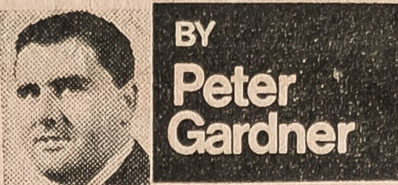
BELL HURT

Within seconds of the start City were in trouble with Allen, the former Stockport centre-forward, flattening Bell on the edge of the centre circle inside the Luton half. It was a painful injury to Bell who resumed after treatment still rubbing his back.

From the free-kick Luton were put under pressure, but Moore breasted the ball away. Then Bell, midway inside the Luton half, took control, but again he was handled roughly, with Harrison penalised.

Mann then controlled a clearance and floated the ball wingwards to where Young and Coleman were standing unmarked, and, although there was no response from the linesman, referee, Burns gave the City pair offside.

It was certainly a helter-skelter start by City, for when Bell took over from Doyle and then pushed the ball out to the



BY
Peter Gardner

right, Lee came racing through to hit a first-time rising shot over the bar.

Allen and Harrison linked up smoothly in a retaliatory Luton raid on the left, but Lee had dropped back to cover Pardoe, and swiftly brought the ball away.

Lee showed an exceptional turn of speed when he moved down the wing, and went almost to the line before pulling the ball back sharply.

But Young, racing through the middle, could not quite get hold of the cross, and the best he could do was to sidefoot the ball straight to Davie.

Young again and then Owen failed to exploit half chances on the edge of the Luton area as City continued to monopolise the play.

It was certainly a cracking start with Luton hitting back and Harrison sending in a curling cross which dipped just over the bar.

Then there was another anxious moment for City when, from a free kick just outside the home penalty area, Lewis teed the ball up for Rioch, who volleyed it narrowly wide.

Came the 20th minute and City were still scoreless—and not responding to assistant manager Malcolm Allison's call that they should be two up at this stage.

THE TEAMS

MANCHESTER CITY: Dowd; Pardoe, Mann; Doyle, Booth, Oakes; Lee, Bell, Owen, Young, Coleman. Sub: Bowles.

LUTON TOWN: Davie; Dougan, Bannister; Slough, Branston, Moore; French, Lewis, Allen, Rioch, Harrison. Sub: McDerment.

Referee: K Burns, of Stourbridge.

In fact, the pressure that City had exerted was now being relaxed, with Luton being allowed to come more into the game.

Harrison sidestepped a tackle from Pardoe and crossed in front of the City goal, but fortunately there was no Luton forward following up.

PENALTY

At last in the 26th minute City took the lead... from the penalty spot.

Bell, once more proving City's best and busiest forward, threaded the ball to Lee, who went tearing through on his own, but was brought down by Moore on the corner of the six-yard area.

Referee Burns had no hesitation in awarding a penalty and LEE blasted the spot-kick home.

Sixty seconds later, Young had the ball in the net again, but he was pulled up for offside.

A new ball was taken in the 37th minute, and it almost brought City another success with Young fighting the ball to Owen, who was only a fraction from connecting.

Branston picked off a cross from Bell and Moore cleared when Mann tried to find a gap through the middle.

Coleman lost out on the left when French dropped back to cover as Luton still gamely battled on despite City's territorial superiority.

French crossed well from the right, but Booth, as he had been doing throughout the first half, again headed clear virtually unchallenged.

Half-time: Manchester City 1, Luton Town 0.

Doyle tried to find Owen with a crossfield ball, but Moore, who had been defending stubbornly for Luton, headed clear.

Within two minutes of the restart, however, Lewis had his name taken after tangling with Pardoe on the halfway line, although it seemed a harsh decision.

But of one thing there was no doubt—Luton were not going to give up without a fight.

Lee found this to his cost when he weaved inside from the left only to find Dougan blocking his path. Then Bell, Owen and Lee all missed from close in.

Lee, however, appeared to be struck by someone, and went down holding his head. He needed attention. The final effort by Bell was sent behind for a corner, and after Young had had a shot blocked, Bell tried to break through, but was robbed by Slough.

MISTAKES
Too many mistakes were creeping into City's play, and a lot of their passing became erratic, thus handing the initiative to Luton.
And at times Town were quick to exploit this situation with their fast breaks often troubling the Blues.
When City broke away Bell exploded a powerful shot from the right-hand corner of the penalty area, but Davie saved well.
At the other end, Booth alone stood between Luton and an equaliser as Stuart Rioch and then Allen drove in shots which were blocked.

In the 57th minute there was a great chance for City. Doyle lifted the ball high down the middle and Young broke clear, but shot over as Davie came out.

The Blues kept pegging away, gaining two right-wing corners in quick succession.

From the second, Branston's headed clearance went out to Coleman, whose fierce shot was

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VERDICT ON CITY

CITY had the skill and poise, Luton the dogged determination and ability to fight all the way in a typical cut-and-thrust Cup tie at Maine Road this afternoon.

For a quarter of an hour it looked as though City were going to stand by assistant manager Malcolm Allison's promise of two quick goals to flatten their Third Division opponents.

But once Luton had survived that early barrage they revealed themselves as a side who could defend desperately and still look dangerous on the break.

Certainly City were not happy with just that Francis Lee penalty behind them for most of the time. There were occasions when the Blues became erratic, carelessly wasting the ball and at times handing the initiative to Luton.

Colin Bell once more emerged head and shoulders above the other players. But there was a complete lack of penetration in front of goal by the Blues although Luton goalkeeper Sandy Davie became his side's hero with at least half a dozen fine saves.

Alan Oakes turned in a great second half performance.

CITY MATCH REPORT From Back Page

City meet a hero

MANCHESTER CITY 1 LUTON TOWN 0

yet again saved in thrilling manner by Davie, Luton's hero. Slough got his body in the way of a Lee blockbuster, then Owen shot straight at Davie as City again put Town under pressure.

Bell did get the ball into the net after rounding the Luton goalkeeper, but Young was offside.

There was a fine link-up between Lee and Bell with the inside right shooting inches outside. Bell then followed up with a fine run which ended when Moore pushed the ball for yet another corner.

In the 63rd minute, Luton pulled off Lewis, replacing him with McDerment.

Still Luton came fighting back, and French had a great chance when Allen headed on a left wing cross to his winger. However, French smashed his shot outside.

City's carelessness continued with Doyle directing a clearance straight to French. But for Mann's quickness in the tackle, it might have proved costly.

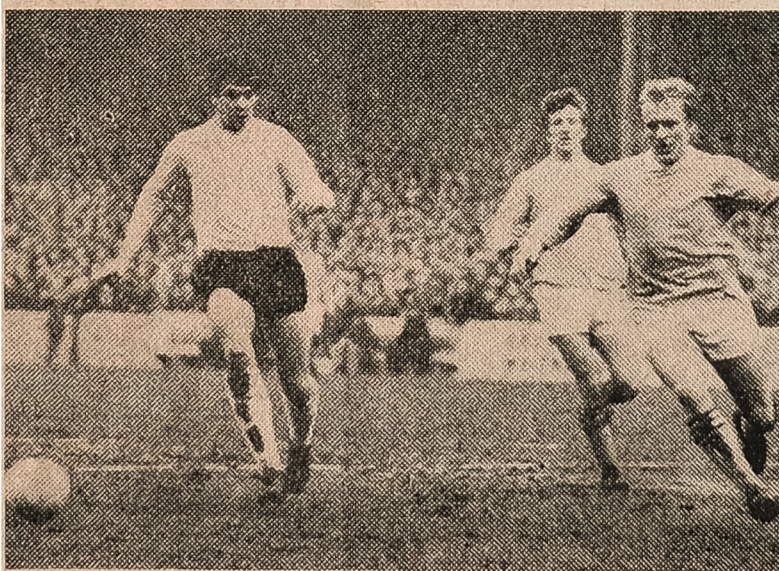
Oakes once more inspired his men, but again Davie came to Luton's rescue, palming away a sizzling cross-shot from Coleman.

GALLANT

Somehow Davie managed to get his body in the way of a drive from Lee with Luton gallantly holding out in the face of heavy pressure.

Then, in the 85th minute, Luton really stepped up the pressure. Dougan sent a fine centre swinging into the middle and Rioch rose superbly to head goalwards, then held his head in despair as Dowd, with a flying leap, turned the ball behind.

The scares were indeed coming thick and fast for City. Then City roared back, only for Coleman and Young to shoot outside.



Reeling under a Manchester City attack led by Francis Lee (right) and Bobby Owen (centre) Luton's Jack Bannister (left) runs in to head off a dangerous situation at Maine Road this afternoon.