

MORE BITE

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Spring-heeled Don

TWO THINGS emerged out of Luton's disappointing home draw against Norwich on Saturday — an admission by manager Alec Stock that his attack needs more bite and an explanation by coach Jimmy Andrews as to why he pulled off winger Jimmy Ryan who, to my way of thinking, was having a fine match.

"We just did not have enough up front," complained the manager after the game. "We need a bit more yet. We had blokes trying to carry the ball instead of playing it."

And Mr Andrews confided: "I didn't bring Ryan off because he was playing badly. Nothing of the sort. We thought Bobby might put a bit of life into the game. It almost worked, didn't it?"

And he added: "Football is a 12-man game these days. — It's a pity Luton couldn't have used all 12 at once, for as the match dragged into the second half it looked more and more certain that they wouldn't score with it."

Commendable

On the other hand I believe Luton were only a yard away from giving Norwich a roasting. Had one of MacDonald's three commendable efforts in the first half found the net, Norwich would have had to abandon their defensive ideas and come out in search of an equaliser.

That would have given Luton the freedom they needed to rub in their civilian midfield superiority.

Even Norwich manager Ron Saunders openly admitted to me after the match that he had not what he came for — a point.

"We were a bit worried about playing a newly promoted side in their first home game in a new division. I knew Luton would be full of running, and we took everything they threw at us."

"We played well. I have 11 good players there — and another eight waiting at home to get into the side."

And it's always going to be the same for Luton. Clubs will settle for a point at Kenilworth Road and it is imperative that Luton get early goals.

One chance

They will get them. I am confident of that. But we don't want them taking a long time to settle into their new company.

One desperation creep into their game, Luton had had it. But it was plain to see that Norwich were allowed only one chance at goal — and that was headed against the crossbar by Bennett.

LUTON TOWN 0 NORWICH CITY 0 By ROGER DUCKWORTH

as a scalpel, and with help from Ryan and Givens, will get a lot of goals this season. Givens had a good first half, but was less in the picture in the second.

Jimmy Ryan delighted his new audience with some speedy trickery and he looks a good buy.

Boy, who looks a battering in midfield, had another fine game for the Town, and Court, who was making his home League debut, showed he has a brain as agile as his feet. He should do well.

Slough wasted

Chris Nichol continued at centre-half and pleased his manager with complete dominance of the air, though I thought he was caught on the wrong feet a couple of times when Norwich attacked on the ground.

Alan Slough is wasted at left-back and I would like to see him back in the middle of the field, where he is far more dominant and exciting. He made a couple of slips on Saturday, but he was marking Norwich's best player in Max Briggs.

Moore again did well, and he showed a cool head at the back, while John Ryan had another steady game, again showing a penchant for moving up and crossing dangerous balls.

Spindrift Keenan

In goal the experienced Tony Read was safe enough, though he did not have a great deal to do.

And again Mike Keen had a fine match for Luton. For some reason he is still not the most popular player on the side, but he has proved so far that the higher class of opposition, the better player he is.

He is obviously going to be a better player in the Second Division — and there wasn't much wrong with him in the Third. In three matches this season he has been Luton's most consistent performer.

The tragedy of this match was that Luton did not cash in

on the first half when they were streets ahead of their opponents. Norwich goal-keeper Keelan had a bit to do with this, having a splendid game.

In the Norwich defence centre-half Forbes did well in the air, using his height effectively against MacDonald, and Butler and Stringer impressed with their tackling.

Left-back Black was booked for a foul on Bushy, but on the whole was successful with his block-and-tackle methods. You can always tell when a full-back is having a good game — when he's booked everything he touches the ball.

On the whole Silverstar and Bennett were well marshalled, but the fair-haired Paddon caused a bit of disruption behind them.

Reminded that his team play Birmingham away next week, Mr Stock said: "It's not all that tough. They are about the same as last year. We are glad to have broken our duck with a point today. Birmingham haven't worry me too much."

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Read; John Ryan, Slough; Hoy, Nichol, Moore; Jimmy Ryan (Bushy 61), Court, MacDonald, Keen, Givens.

NORWICH CITY: Keelan; Butler, Black, Stringer, Forbes, Howard, Briggs, Bennett, Silverstar, Paddon, Fagan, Sub, Howwell.

Referee: Mr H. G. New (Ipswich).

Attendance: 14,118.



DON GIVENS, Luton Town's new forward from Manchester United has proved himself a menace in the air to opposing defences. His ability to keep eyes underlined on Saturday, and photographer TONY MARDELL caught his style in the above picture, as Givens raved into action against Norwich City.

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Macdonald looked as short