

GREAT GIVENS! IT'S HEADS TOWN WIN

Luton 1 Middlesbrough 0

DARING Don Givens rose majestically into the air to head home a great goal from David Court's corner and give Luton a deserved win over mighty Middlesbrough.

The goal came in the 16th minute and Luton were unlucky with several other chances.

Middlesbrough were the first to show with a slow-moving attack on each wing.

But first Nicholl and Moore came to the Town's aid and then John Ryan won some applause by coolly dummieing the Boro attack and dribbling clear across the edge of the box.

And after the opening moves it was predictable that Middlesbrough would have the first shot. This they did in the fourth minute but Hickton's effort was high and wide after Webb had put him away after a mix-up between Guild and Tees.

It was not long before the Town came into the picture and some terrier-like worrying of goalkeeper Whigham by

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**

across the face of the goal untouched.

After a bit of indecisive work by the Town defence, Myton burst on to a loose ball some 25 yards out and tested Read with a screaming left-footer which the goalkeeper could not catch cleanly.

Then Nicholl was thankful to clear right over the Oak Road stand from under Read's nose after Myton's cross had been headed into the middle.

In the 16th minute, Luton went ahead with a splendid goal from GIVENS — his first for the Town.

After John Ryan had worked bravely to win a corner, which was taken by Court, Givens rose majestically and headed fiercely down for the ball to bounce out of the reach of Whigham and up into the net.

Deflection

As if nettled by this reverse Middlesbrough hit back and broad shouldered Hickton muscled his way through a group of Luton defenders before having his shot narrowly deflected for an unproductive corner.

In the 22nd minute Givens had the ball in the Middlesbrough net again but it didn't count as he hooked it out of the goalkeeper's hands before putting it between the posts.

Keen got Luton out of some trouble with a cool back pass to Read after McIlmoyle had narrowly missed a good cross from Hickton.

In that danger period just before half-time Luton ran into a few problems and after conceding a couple of corners, Maddren had a shot blocked and there was a certain amount of Luton panic in which Guild and Moore, who was having a splendid game, came to the rescue.

HT: Luton 1, Middlesbrough 0

Middlesbrough restarted as if they meant business and Read had to run out sharply to catch a high ball under pressure from Webb with whom he collided heavily.

But Luton settled and Guild was a bit slow in chasing a nice-looking pass from Givens and was beaten to the ball. Middlesbrough's had their



It's there! Matt Tees salutes Luton's first goal by Don Givens.

biggest fright eight minutes after the break.

Whigham stubbed a goal kick and Tees, quick to spot the opening, raced on to the ball took it towards the outcoming goalkeeper and flicked it over his head.

It looked a goal all the way — and it should have been — but the ball skidded across the top of the crossbar.

Then some quick thinking by Tees gave Guild a brief opening from the edge of the box, but he too miskicked and his shot went harmlessly wide.

Givens made an exciting run into the danger zone but he was bundled off the ball on the 18 yard line and Keen crossed to Tees who, running in fast, volleyed hard against a defender and then intelligently stood off the field to avoid being caught offside. But it all came to nothing again.

In the 74th minute McIlmoyle was replaced by Middlesbrough's sub, Gates.

Then Macdonald broke away for Luton and would undoubtedly have scored had he not been dragged down by the arm by Gates who received a severe telling off by the referee, but nothing else.

There followed some amazing scrambles and some welcome excitement during which Givens and Court set up chances and the determined Macdonald smashed the ball against the post.

Two minutes from the scheduled end Luton brought on winger Jimmy Ryan for David Court, who received applause as he left the field.

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Read, John Ryan, Slough, Guild, Nicholl, Moore, Macdonald, Court, Tees, Keen, Givens. Sub: Jimmy Ryan.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Whigham, Allen, Jones, Moody, Maddren, Spraggon, Laidlaw, Webb, McIlmoyle, Hickton, Myton. Sub: Gates.

Referee: A. Morrissey (Bramhall).

GOALS

GIVENS (Luton) 16min

Attendance: 16,018.

Macdonald and Givens won Luton a corner on the right. This was floated over by Court and Macdonald and Tees both went close to it.

A Middlesbrough free kick for a foul by Nicholl was hammered into the Luton defensive wall by Hickton and after Moore had again put in some class defending, Macdonald broke on the left and narrowly failed to get his centre across under severe pressure.

In the eighth minute goalkeeper Read showed off his big kick when his clearance bounced right into the Boro penalty area chased by Tees. Centre-half Maddren was glad to concede a corner.

This produced another one on the other side but it went