

JIM RYAN TURNS IT ON

But Luton look scrappy against Workington Reds

LUTON TOWN 3 WORKINGTON 0

FLYING SCOTSMAN Jimmy Ryan put a Highland fling into Luton Town last night. After being brought on as substitute in the second half, he transformed Luton into a workmanlike unit after they had shown a first half of frustrating mediocrity.

Ryan put a welcome zip into a flagging Luton attack that had yawned its way to a 1-0 half-time lead against Workington, a very ordinary Fourth Division side.

And afterwards manager Alec Stock said that Ryan had put himself right into the reckoning for a first team place for Saturday's League match at Leicester.

"After that show he must be considered," he said.

Happy

Although not over the moon with his side's performance, the Luton manager was happy.

round like everyone else. Just let the little ones keep coming — at home. That's the way you get on in cup football."

Trouble with this performance is that Luton did not win themselves a lot of new friends. And that's what they are trying to do at the moment, with gates slumping.

In the first half the crowd bayed: "We want Ryan", to alleviate the boredom. And in the second half, not satisfied that their wish had been granted with a pleasing result.

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

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noting in the first half. The first brought Don Givens his first goal. In the ninth minute Macdonald executed a beautiful pass for the Irishman to take in his stride and belt past John Burridge.

Long shot

The second thrill came when newcomer Alan Guild, who again played some steady football, powered in to blast a terrific long shot inches over the bar.

And the third was when a hard low centre from big-hearted Alan Slough ricocheted off a defender's foot and slapped against the crossbar.

Low spot of the first spell was when Givens was booked by a referee who gave the worst display of officiating I have seen this season.

Givens went in as peace-maker to calm a bit of trouble between Tees and a couple of Workington defenders. He nudged the ball away as he went in to calm things down, and was booked for his trouble — to the roars of incredulous laughter from the crowd.

Apart from a string of astonishing decisions, Mr M. E. Washer, from Bristol, also forgot to add the four minutes of injury time.

Classy Ryan

The second half was decidedly better. Jimmy Ryan put all his skills on show and won the appreciation of the crowd. He certainly looks a classy winger — and one in the real tradition of wingers. He can beat his man and wriggle round the back of a defence before putting in a raking cross.

Macdonald scored his sixth goal of the season as a direct result of a piece of Jimmy Ryan wizardry. The winger put in a tricky, controlled run before banging over a low cross. It was deflected by Givens to Mac, who, waiting by the far post, had the easiest of jobs in netting.

Givens, who had a superb game, scored the third with a flashing header to a perfect near-post cross from John Ryan.

Jimmy Ryan replaced Matt Tees who did not have the happiest of first halves. For a long time he fought a lone battle against two rugged defenders as he chased aimless long balls up the middle.

Clean sheet

Both Nicholl and Moore carried on where they left off on Saturday and gave fine performances. Nicholl was playing against his former Halifax colleague Les Massie — and played him out of the game. Massie was replaced in the second half by Wookey.

In Luton's goal Tony Read had another clean sheet, and a visitor still has to score at Luton this season. Slough and John Ryan both did good jobs again, helping to contribute to Read's easy night.

Mike Keen worked as hard as ever, but lost a bit of accuracy with his passing at times. This could have been because some of his colleagues were not running into open spaces quickly enough.

Alongside him in midfield David Court gave a pleasing display of classy football, working hard in every quarter of the field.

But Luton should have done better against this opposition. Goodfellow, Spratt and Butler did well for the Reds. Goodfellow marred his performance by collecting a booking for a bad foul on Tees.

"Scrappy" is the kindest way to describe this game. Luton will have to settle down for their visit to Leicester on Saturday. I hope Jimmy Ryan gets his chance again.

Afterwards coach Jimmy Andrews explained: "We have tried various things, and, although we can't play like we did against Oxford every time, they have come off. While we have experimented, we have won. We can only keep trying."

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Read; John Ryan, Slough; Guild, Nicholl, Moore; Macdonald, Court, Tees (Jim Ryan, 45), Keen, Givens. WORKINGTON: Burridge; Wilson, Butler; Geldmintis, Spencer, Wood; Tyrer, Spratt, Massie (Wookey, 77), Goodfellow, Martin. Referee: Mr M. W. Washer (Bristol). Attendance: 11,072.

Goals: Givens (9 mins and 77 mins), Macdonald (50 mins).



Don Givens scores Luton Town's first goal in the 3-0 League Cup win over Workington at Kenilworth Road last night. The Eire centre-forward put the Town ahead in their first attack, after nine minutes, following a fine piece of play by Malcolm Macdonald. Mac got the second goal and Givens headed the third.