

# Lively Givens boosts Luton

10/11

LUTON HAVE still not conceded a home League goal this season—but it was the weakness of the Bolton forwards rather than their own strength that kept that record intact yesterday.

For some unaccountable reason, having secured the decisive advantage of a two-goal lead in the first 22 minutes, Luton went off the boil.

They were struggling for the rest of the match, and looked something less than the thoroughly efficient team they have been in recent games.

Yet those two early goals could easily have been four, because Bolton seemed to have little faith in their own ability either up front or at the back.

They seemed to be booked for dire trouble when, after nine minutes, Chris Nicholl—surely the most improved young centre half in the country—moved up to head a fine goal from a corner by David Court.

## GREAT GOAL

That should have set the stage for a football treat for the crowd of 19,055, Luton's biggest by nearly 3,000 for a League game this season.

But somehow things did not work out that way.

True there was a great goal headed by Don Givens after 22 minutes. That alone was almost worth the admission money, for it was a goal that Bolton manager Nat Lofthouse would have been proud to call his own in his heyday as England's leader.

For a few minutes Luton looked like runnin' riot. Roger Hoy hit the bar, but somehow they seemed to lose their zest. As manager Alec Stock said afterwards: "We became tepid just

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when we wanted to impress the most."

Even though Luton had the better of the second-half play, there was no doubt that the real scoring chances fell to Bolton. No wonder manager Lofthouse was bemoaning his fate afterwards when he said: "We had enough chances to win two games." And he was not far wide of the mark.

Chief offenders were John Byrom, who at least got near enough to hit the woodwork, Gordon Taylor, whose crosses frequently went astray, and John Manning, latest victim of the vigilance of Nicholl.

In fact, it was as well for Luton that Nicholl did not falter, for their were gaps in the defence and 'keeper Read looked anything but confident at times.

There were moments late in the game, when Luton looked as if they might throw off the uncertainty that had troubled them since the opening stages, but striker Malcolm Macdonald was given little chance by tight marking and the main hope always lay in the lively Givens.

LUTON.—Read; Ryan (John), Slough, Hoy, Nicholl, Moore, Ryan (Jimmy), Court, Macdonald, Keen, Givens. Sub: Busby.

BOLTON.—Boswell; Ritson, Farrimond, Williams, Hurley, Hulme, Fletcher, Byrom, Manning, Phillips, Taylor. Sub: Rimner.