

Luton saved by Busby header

Luton Town 1 Charlton Athletic 1: by DAVID WILSON

LUTON CAME to life only in the last 20 minutes after Charlton skipper Paul Went had put the bottom-of-the-table Londoners in front from the penalty spot. It was the 68th minute of this lethargic match when Luton right-back John Ryan brought down Charlton winger Keith Peacock as he cut into the penalty area.

Welsh referee Clive Thomas (Treorchy), who had earlier refused three Luton penalty appeals, had no doubt about this one.

Up stroled Went to send the ball high and and true into the Luton net. Only then did it seem to dawn on dreaming Town side that they were in the gravest danger of losing both points.

Like his Luton colleagues, high-scoring Malcolm Macdonald was having no luck with his shooting. But Macdonald presented Don Givens with a perfect chance for him to go through.

Givens centred well but substitute Viv Busby missed the ball completely.

In the 72nd minute, however, Busby made amends when he headed his first League goal for Luton's golden equaliser. This time the chance came from a Jimmy Ryan cross which was headed on by Mike Keen.

Busby was on the field from the hour mark because Roger Hoy had collected a nose injury that afterwards needed a couple of stitches.

Busby almost added a second goal when he got the ball into the net, but controversial referee Thomas ruled that Macdonald had pushed the Charlton keeper.

Hoy was in the referee's notebook for an over-strong tackle on Charlton forward Dennis Bond.



Referee Thomas was about the busiest man on the field because he also booked Charlton left-back Dietmar Bruck for kicking the ball away after a free kick had been given; and he noted Charlton goalkeeper Charlie Wright.

Ever-busy Wright was hauled up for allegedly taking more than four steps before kicking the ball. Mr. Thomas said afterwards he had booked Wright for "dissent."

But Wright returned to London smiling, because this was a precious point in Charlton's fight for Second Division survival.

Charlton manager Theo Foley said: "We must have a chance of staying up if we can win points at places like Luton, who have such a good defensive record."

Luton chief Alec Stock admitted: "We threw it away and didn't wake up until it was almost too late."

LUTON.—Goal: Ryan (John) Slough, Hey, Nicholl, Moore, Ryan (Jimmy), Givens, Macdonald, Keen, Anderson, Sub: Busby.

CHARLTON.—Wright; Curtis, Bruck, Reeves, Went, Shipperley, Bond, Treacy, Plumb, Endean, Peacock, Sub: Warman.