

TWO GOALS IN LAST MINUTE

Roger Duckworth



Verdict

ORIENT 1 LUTON 2

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

TWO GOALS by Viv Busby, the second right on full-time, gave Luton two unimportant points against one of Alec Stock's former clubs.

Luton were always the more enterprising side, but Stock's surprise team changes, including the dropping of Anderson, seemed to have little effect.

There was a miserably small crowd for a miserable day at Brisbane Road this afternoon.

With promotion now a dream of the past, there was little to fight for this afternoon except prestige. And Town manager Alec Stock, always wants to do well at Leyton, the club he has twice managed.

There was a surprise from the Luton dressing room when Peter Anderson, Luton's star last week, was left out. This, like Town's eventual line-up, was unexpected.

Busby was switched to the right wing to make room for Court at No 8, with Givens continuing at No 11. Barber had his second outing in the first team. We had been led to believe that Givens was out and that Anderson would continue on the right wing, where he did so well against Sheffield Wednesday.

On Orient's wings were old stagers Mark Lazarus, on the right and former England International Peter Brabrook on the left.

Lucky

Luton went straight into the attack, and Givens shot wide following a good through ball from Busby. He might have made better use of a situation which could have given him one of the quickest goals of the season.

And Luton's second early chance came when Slough hammered a short pass from a free kick harmlessly over the top.

A high, bouncing ball into the penalty area was enthusiastically chased by Macdonald, who just failed to get to it after a collision which Orient goalkeeper Goddard did not appreciate.

In the fifth minute Orient had a remarkable let-off. A long throw from Hoy found Macdonald free on the left, and his good cross was hit first time by Court, whose commendable effort from a difficult bouncing situation hit the crossbar. In the melee that followed Orient were lucky to still be on level terms.

Town had further bad luck in the ninth minute when Givens, after combining well with Court and Busby, put across a hard left-footed cross which only just beat Macdonald to the far post.

Orient's first effort came in the 11th minute when, from a long free kick on the right, Brisley got a good break. But

Barber made an alert diving save to block the shot from close range.

John Ryan hit back and his left-foot drive from 30 yards was just wide of the post. Goddard was left spread-eagled across the goalmouth.

Despite the numbering, Givens started the match on the right wing. He did well to win a corner after taking a superb pass from Court in midfield. Court took the flag kick and Busby's shot was deflected wide.

Danger

Dyson was presented with an opportunity following a long free kick from Rofo, but his effort was wasted as he shot wide.

Another good build-up by Luton, starting with Slough and involving Court and Macdonald, ended with a hopeful Givens shot being saved by Goddard.

Luton squandered another chance when Givens managed to get the ball back from the bye-line but it was cut out en route for Macdonald.

The game was quite entertaining, and Orient hit back with a good cross from Lazarus after Bullock had opened up the defence. But Barber was quick to spot the danger and saved at Brabrook's feet.

Barber missed his second cross of the match, but a hard centre into the undefended Luton goal resulted in Dyson putting a diving header wide of the post.

Lazarus was presented with a chance after two Orient corners, but his effort was blocked after some good, tight marking by Hoy.

After some aimless play in the middle, Luton put some bite into attack when a through ball from Keen was inches wide of Busby's left foot.

But he won a corner, and this led to Luton taking the lead. Macdonald did well to head Hoy's corner into the goalmouth, and BUSBY was there to head the ball over the airborne Goddard and into the net from a difficult situation.

A fine, determined run on the right by John Ryan ended with a good pass to Macdonald whose hard shot was just over the top from the edge of the box.

HT: Orient 0, Luton 1



Orient goalkeeper Ray Goddard rushes out to clear from the head of Luton's Malcolm Macdonald

A cross from Brabrook and a corner from Lazarus caused the Luton defence some early problems in the second half but goalkeeper Barber proved himself up to scratch on both occasions.

A crisp through-ball from Mancini was helped on via a deflection and Barber did another good job in collecting the ball as Dyson prepared to pounce.

Nicholl sent Luton away but Goddard caught Givens's hard shot cleanly. The wind seemed to have strengthened and Luton were having a difficult time playing against it in the second half.

Appeals

A promising move between Court and Macdonald was spoiled when Busby was pulled off the ball in the box but the referee ignored Luton's appeals.

Another good-looking move which developed between Slough and Givens on the left wing came to nothing despite a good run by Givens. After severe pressure he was forced to put the ball into the hands of Orient goalkeeper Goddard, who was well positioned.

Orient did their best to get back into the game. A free kick from Brabrook brought a fighting dribble from Lazarus in the penalty area. He was robbed, but then Bullock went close with an overhead kick following a chip into the middle from the left.

The wind was making things very, very difficult for both sides, but it did not contribute to the value of the football and the crowd began to get

impatient as players went astray.

Twice Barber did well to collect swirling crosses under pressure from Dyson, and after the first he collected a knowing-look from referee Walker after taking what looked to me to be a couple too many steps.

Substitute

Brisley was carried off in the 75th minute after colliding with Hoy, and he was replaced by former Luton forward Gordon Riddick.

From the free-kick there was an almighty scramble in the Luton goalmouth, and it took some bravery from Barber to come out with the ball after having had to dive in among a forest of flaying feet.

But he did not escape unscathed, and seemed in some trouble with an arm injury.

With ten minutes to go Luton started to waste time, and Givens got the ball, and a few apple cores, from the crowd after going down on the touchline with a harmless looking injury.

But it was still Luton attacking, and a good, hard cross from John Ryan brought a header from Macdonald which went close.

There was last minute action as Busby scored for Luton and Brabrook for Orient.