

I'll fight booking says Luton boss

Luton 2 Orient 0: by PHILIP OSBORN

LUTON MANAGER Alec Stock joined the growing army of club officials in revolt against the League's hard-line refereeing policy after Don Givens, his skilful forward, was booked for the third time this season. In the 32nd minute, referee Ronald Crabb awarded a foul for dangerous play when Givens lunged forward to tackle an Orient man.

When Givens expressed his disagreement, he was booked. It looked a harsh ruling.

Givens' foot had never been above knee level and his protest was comparatively mild.

Stock said later: "We'll fight this one. It was a terrible decision to blow for a foul in the first place."

"Givens was justified in complaining—and to book him for the way he did it was ridiculous. It's sickening when you consider that Givens is one of the mildest-mannered players you could think of."

Stock added that Luton would also be appealing against the booking Givens received at Bristol on December 4.

Two Orient players were also booked. Paul Harris for a foul on Vic Halom—his third caution of the season—and Phil Hoadley for handling the ball.

But there were no complaints from Orient boss George Petchey. "I suppose the referees have to do it nowadays," he commented.

The turning point of this keenly contested but never brutal game came in the 62nd minute when Alan Slough headed Luton in front.

But although Givens added a second for Luton there were still plenty for the fiercely critical Kenilworth Road crowd to complain about. For Luton again revealed attacking weaknesses.



This is the beginning of the end for Orient as Alan Slough (right) heads Luton's first goal