

BUSY GEORGE SPARKS FULHAM



● Peter Anderson rises to nod home Luton's goal. Fulham's Dave Moreline is the defender who can only stand and stare.

GEORGE JOHNSTON, wearing the No. 7 shirt for Fulham, was the hero of this match. He is a player with a sensitive touch for the ball and a perceptive understanding of the play. But fate has cursed him with a certain lack of pace; otherwise he would have been a very good player indeed.

This was a good day for him. His guile and cunning and his instinct to be in the right place minimised his lack of pace.

Both these teams had the best of football intentions, and the fact that the play did not quite live up to them was due mainly to a lot of slack passing.

For all that, it was a clean and lively game from start to finish.

Fulham won it with two first-half goals that gave them a lead their faltering defence could just hold on to.

Luton came on strong when they reduced the lead in the second half and gave the conviction they must even the scales. But Fulham finished strongly with a couple of good chances, and Les Barrett scored their third goal in the final minute.

There had been little to choose between the teams when Johnston put Fulham in the lead in the 30th minute. Barry Lloyd's corner from the right

Fulham 3 Luton 1: by DANNY BLANCHFLOWER

was fast and head high. Johnston met it at the near post and gave Tony Read no chance with a firm and convincing header.

Encouraged by their goal, Fulham surged forward for another. It came in the 38th minute, but it was not as clear-cut as their first.

Barrett, an exciting winger, fired a cross from the left touch line which Johnston just managed to touch with his head and deflect past a surprised Read.

DETERMINED

Luton came out looking more determined in the second half. They hammered at the home defence and began to find cracks.

Mik Keen had a great chance on the edge of the six-yard box but headed straight at Malcolm Webster.

Almost immediately Johnston nearly scored again at the other end. But Luton came back, and in the 59th minute Peter Anderson reduced the lead with a smart header at the far post

from Gordon Hindson's right-wing corner.

The visitors tried hard for an equaliser, but despite the cracks Fulham's defence held out and the Luton forwards failed to create a clear-cut chance.

Then Fulham began to look dangerous again at the other end. Johnston got clean away, but his lack of pace allowed Chris Nicholl to catch him.

Steve Earle got through and shot just wide across the goal.

Finally Barrett scored a smasher just as the referee had his whistle ready to blow for full time. This match was a credit to both teams.

FULHAM.—Webster; Moreline, Callaghan, Dunne, Matthewson, Richardson, Johnston, Cross, Earle, Lloyd, Barrett. Sub: Stephenson.

LUTON.—Read; Ryan, Slough, Keen, Nicholl, Moore, Anderson, Court, Hallow, Owens, Hindson. Sub: Shanks.