

LUTON NEED ANOTHER SUPER-MAC

71/72

Charlton Athletic 2, Luton Town 0

ANGRY, dark-faced members of the Luton camp strode home from the Valley early on Saturday night, threatening among other things, to kick the dog. After a show like this it would surely make more sense to show it new tricks rather than bury the boot in its backside.

The answer is change, not vindication. And if I were a Luton reserve I would be shining my boots as soon as I got to work today.

For Luton's old, experienced team has gone wrong. It looks jaded. Charlton are no great shakes but on Saturday they were as sharp again as Luton.

Luton look as if they need a break — and some breaks. I was talking to coach Jimmy Andrews after the match and he was as baffled as anyone else.

"For God's sake, what do you do?" he said. We have tried just about everything in an effort to get a few goals. We have tried three strikers, four strikers, wingers, wing-halves, attacking from midfield. Even three centre-forwards.

"And we still can't score," said the Town coach bitterly. "It's just like banging your head against a wall. That

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referee didn't help us much either."

There's another thing. Luton claimed that Charlton should have had neither of their goals. Goalkeeper Barber, they say, was held down by his shirt by Ray Treacy when he jumped to catch a Rogers corner. The ball went directly into the net.

Fooled

And Peacock, they claim, took a dive when he was tackled by David Court in the penalty box. It certainly fooled referee Edward Jolly who awarded the penalty which Went converted.

When you are in the middle of run of bad luck, little goes right for you. Fair enough, but if you can't score goals you are never going to win matches.

Viv Busby was "really sick" at being pulled off in favour of Vic Halom in the 58th minute,

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Barber; John Ryan, Slough; Keen, Nicholl, Moore; Wainwright, Court, Anderson, Givens, Busby (Halom, 58 mins).

CHARLTON ATHLETIC: Dunn; Jones, Warman; Went, Shipperley, Davies; Peacock (Plumb, 80 mins), Treacy, Hunt, Rogers, Flanagan.

Referee: Mr E. Jolly (Middleton).

Attendance: 7,941.

Goals: Rogers (Charlton, 40 mins); Went (Charlton, penalty, 60 mins).

an unusually early time for a Luton substitution.

"It always seems to be me," he groaned afterwards. "What chance have you got?"

Desperate

I sympathise with him. I thought Busby was just coming into his own when he was asked to leave. He and Anderson were fighting for the ball in midfield in a desperate effort to gain possession.

Givens was the other front runner. In the closing stages he had one of the best chances of the match but shot straight at Dunn.

Earlier he had provided the other best Luton chance for Anderson but the centre-forward could not move quickly enough to get his head to a cross which shot across the face of the Charlton goal.

Halom could do little to

polish Luton's urge for goals in a forward line that needs shaking up.

In midfield Wainwright was constructive in possession but I felt he could have tackled more. Like Court did. He's a real worker and was one of Luton's best players on Saturday.

Keen tried to push Luton on to recovery but they did not have the pace in midfield.

Energy

In the back four I thought Slough had a good match, showing great energy whenever the opportunity for a sortie into enemy territory arose.

There was good tackling from John Ryan and Moore, and Nicholl was again commanding in the air. It must be remembered that both Charlton's goals came from set pieces.

Barber did well in his comeback match and is sure to be left in. Some of the players, I understand, felt Read was a bit unlucky to be left out. But on this showing Barber has a bright future.

His handling, especially in the first half, was superb and he lacks nothing in the bravery department, which he demonstrated by going fast at the feet of Hunt after a daft back pass from a colleague.

Whispers

Even though the names of Shanks and Goodeve were being whispered in certain circles on Saturday night, the defence is not where the problem lies. I would certainly give them a go, especially Shanks, who has let nobody down when given the opportunity. But this is not the complete answer.

Luton must produced a centre-forward with the goal touch. Malcolm Macdonald used to say that he didn't care if the ball went into the net off his head, feet, chest or backside — so long as it went in. Luton need someone who thinks of nothing but goals. Then they will start scoring a few — and winning matches.

For Charlton the speedy Irishman Eamonn Rogers was in sparkling form and the control of Peacock caused Luton some worries.

Shipperley was booked for a 24th-minute foul on Anderson, with whom he raged a running battle. It was his fifth caution of the season. He is already under a two-week suspended sentence.

The crosses of full-back Warman also worried Luton. These are a legacy from his days as a winger.