

Garner stakes claim as Luton's new No. 5

Luton 1 Burnley 0: by SYDNEY SPICER

WHO GETS Luton's No. 5 spot now that Chris Nicholl has gone to Aston Villa? Young Alan Garner, a free transfer from Millwall, took over in this the first game since Nicholl's departure and did enough to justify further chances. Garner, knowing that John Faulkner—signed from Leeds—must come into the reckoning, faced a particularly testing debut but he gave a cool, sound display and played his full part in Luton's win.

The points will be welcome, for Luton are too near the foot of the table for comfort. But while Busby was denied a strongly disputed second goal, Burnley had their share of misfortune and were a shade unlucky to go home pointless.

But Luton are to be commended for their spirit. They were more dangerous near goal than their visitors.

It was not an ill-tempered match despite the first-half bookings of Burnley's Arthur Bellamy and Luton's Don Givens for quite ordinary looking fouls.

Referee Clive Thomas was prone to inconsistency and Bellamy escaped censure for what seemed a far more reckless offence later.

MISTAKE

Busby should have given Luton an earlier lead when a mistake by Colin Waldron let him through, but as keeper Alan Stevenson dashed from goal he sold the ball wide.

But Bellamy's booking in the 35th minute was a double-blow for Burnley. Mike Keen hit the free kick hard and Stevenson at full length pushed it to his right. Peter Anderson slipped the ball across goal and Viv Busby took the simplest of chances.

Keith Barber in Luton's goal turned over the bar shots by Dave Thomas and Leighton James (twice). Close on half-time Thomas skillfully threaded his way through and brought a smart save from Barber, but the Burnley forward turned away limping. He had stubbed his left foot and hurt an ankle and he was replaced after the interval by substitute Doug Collins.

Burnley, despite the loss of Thomas, strove for an equaliser. They looked neat in their approach work but though Barber made some excellent saves, far too many moves petered out in the box.

LUTON.—Barber: John Ryan, Shanks, Keen, Garner, Slough, Jim Ryan, Court, Anderson, Busby, Givens. Sub: Moore.

BURNLEY.—Stevenson: Docherty, Wilson, Bellamy, Waldron, Dehson, Thomas, Casper, Fletcher, Probert, James. Sub: Collins.

IN THE NET!

This is the goal, the only one of the match, which enabled the Town to beat Burnley. The scorer is Viv Busby (No 10), and John Ryan (No. 2) is following up fast to make sure the ball goes in.

