

Hesitation in defence and Clarets go behind

THE 35th minute brought a double disappointment for Burnley at Kenilworth Road, Luton, this afternoon, when Arthur Bellamy was booked and following the free kick, Luton Town took a first-half lead.

The Burnley defence stood around as Alan Stevenson made a fine save from Alan Slough, but Luton centre-forward Peter Anderson moved quickly to snip up the loose ball and cross for Viv Busby to put the home side ahead.

Burnley were boosted this morning when Frank Casper and Eric Probert both passed fitness tests and were able to play. Casper had been under treatment for a muscle injury and Probert has a recurrence of a knee injury in training.

LUTON TOWN		
Barber	Shanks	
John Ryan	Garner	Slough
Keen	Court	Busby
Jim Ryan	Anderson	Givens
●		
James Fletcher	Thomas	
Probert	Casper	
Dobson	Waldron	Bellamy
Wilson	Docherty	
Stevenson		
BURNLEY		
Referee: Mr C. Thomas. Rhondda.		

Luton gave a first team debut to centre half Alan Garner, following the departure of £70,000 Chris Nicholl the ex-Claret, to Aston Villa.

Burnley lost the toss and began the game with Thomas at first losing the ball to Givens and then regaining it from the Luton player.

Docherty carried on the move but was brought down. From Thomas's free kick Waldron put a shot over the bar but a Burnley forward had already been whistled up for offside.

Another free kick to Burnley, this time taken by Dobson, found Casper on the right and when he beat Shanks, his shot went across the face of the goal with Barber at full stretch.

As Luton came forward from a throw-in by Keen, Anderson made a determined rush and Dobson put the ball out for a corner. From this, Givens dashed in to try a header which Stevenson collected.

Stevenson then had to save a header from Keen following a John Ryan free kick but the nearest yet to a goal came as Probert was obstructed and Thomas sent in a vicious in-swinger which Barber tipped over the bar.

The resultant corner led to another for Burnley, and from this Fletcher dived forward to head wide.

DANGER

Bellamy broke through to test Barber with a low shot and from the clearance Jimmy Ryan was brought down by Wilson. But Burnley played their usual offside game to end the danger caused by the free kick.

Luton rather desperately gave away two corners and from the second, by Thomas, Probert tried a first time shot which hit Garner.

Luton won a free kick as they went forward and from it Anderson dashed in to miss connecting with a diving header as Burnley's offside trap was beaten.

Only a fearless intervention by Stevenson prevented Luton going ahead in the 17th minute. Waldron was beaten by Busby out on the left, and as the Luton inside man hared in for goal, Stevenson raced out to chal-

THE GOAL :

BUSBY (Luton) . 35 mins

71/72

allenge him in a head-on collision.

The ball went wide and the Burnley keeper needed treatment before he could continue.

CORNER

Dobson, trying to find Stevenson gave away a corner which was put behind by Jimmy Ryan and when Luton got another corner, Busby headed across the face of the goal.

A mistake by Givens let in Bellamy, who went forward before turning the ball inside. Casper, however, failed to control it and was beaten.

Thomas tried a 30-yarder which flew wide before John Ryan made a diagonal run in which he beat Burnley defenders to win a corner. From this, Garner came up to head just over.

Burnley hit back by working the ball down the left and when James cut inside, his right foot shot was tipped over by Barber. From the corner Barber had to block a point-blank effort from Fletcher.

FATAL

After 35 minutes Bellamy was booked for a trip on Givens and the free kick proved fatal to Burnley as Luton took the lead.

The free kick was touched sideways by Keen to Slough who hit a tremendous shot which Stevenson did well to turn aside by diving to his right.

But the ball did not go out of play and with the Burnley defenders standing still Anderson picked up the loose ball near the line and crossed for BUSBY to bang the ball into the net from almost on the goal line.

Givens was booked for a dangerous tackle on Thomas after 39 minutes and from the free kick Burnley won a corner as Garner kicked out first time. From this Dobson's header went over the bar.

Thomas made a long run through the middle and hit a left-foot shot which Barber stopped confidently.

Half-time:

LUTON T. 1, BURNLEY 0

Burnley resumed with Doug Collins substituting for David Thomas.

Luton soon came close to adding to their lead when John Ryan made a long run and turned the ball to Busby, who hit a cross-shot just over the angle of the goal.

Dobson ran the ball out for a corner to stop Busby after Shanks had pushed a pass up the left. When the kick was taken by Jimmy Ryan, Stevenson collected coolly with Givens throwing himself forward in a vain attempt to head home.

Burnley replied by winning a corner on their right after Docherty had overlapped in a move with Probert and following the corner, Collins slung the ball across goal where Waldron headed it down to James, who had a shot turned round the post by Barber.

From this corner, Fletcher's header was headed away by Shanks who was on the line and before Luton finally cleared the danger, Barber had to go down to collect a low shot from James.

EASY

A fierce shot from Court well outside the area hit Anderson and flashed over the Burnley bar and when Luton came again, Jimmy Ryan headed wide after a good run by John Ryan.

Burnley were not looking at all like rounding off their play and the Luton defence was having quite an easy time of it, following their early concern at Burnley's skill.

Stevenson who had his left leg strapped up, came out to save at Anderson's feet after the Luton centre forward had slipped Waldron's tackle.

In a Burnley raid, Docherty overlapped to take Probert's pass but tried a shot which went into the side netting where Fletcher was handily placed for a short pass.

Stevenson made a fine diving save from Keen but after 76 minutes he was beaten as Busby raced away after a slip by Dobson. But after first awarding the goal the referee consulted a linesman and then gave a free kick to Burnley, presumably because Busby had been offside as the ball was pushed through.

Final:

LUTON T 1
BURNLEY 0



Luton's Peter Anderson attempts to burst past Burnley's Jim Thomson at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.