



John Aston, well and truly tackled

WHY LUTON BEAT US —BY RIDDICK

GORDON RIDDICK, the former Luton striker who was Orient's sub on Saturday, sipped a lager after his former team had beaten his present one, and told me why it had happened.

"I went to watch Luton play Preston last week," he said. "I came back and told the boss we would have to sit on that lad Anderson if we were going to win."

"But we didn't do it. We couldn't hold him. He was everywhere. Luton won because they had Anderson and because they were full of attacking ideas sparked from midfield. You don't often see a team play like that away from home."

And happy Harry Haslam, Luton's manager, beamed widely after his first away win as a Football League boss, and said: "That's our idea. We give all the boys freedom to express themselves."

Ambitious

"They all get involved. It was a hard game, but we knew it was going to be. None of them are easy."

It was a pleasure to watch Luton's ambitious, open style. It completely threw the Londoners, who didn't seem to know how to deal with six attacking men who pulled their defence wide open.

None of them seemed to know who to pick up. This suited Luton, who were given more time in which to operate.

The midfield trio of Anderson, Fern and Halom gave Luton the edge, while Jimmy Ryan and Aston tantalised the home defence — with help from the midfield men.

Again Busby was given the orders: "Run yourself into the ground, and we'll send on Slough later on."

This he did, but he was not

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**
Orient 0 Luton Town 1

replaced. Explained Mr Haslam: "I was going to use 12, but they were all going so well, and the pace was so fast that I thought it might take a sub some time to adjust. It could just have spoiled the rhythm."

So Busby had to last 90 minutes at top pace. He was rewarded with the only goal of the match. He joked afterwards: "I think I have shrunk."

The goal came in the 57th minute and followed a spell of attacking from Luton. The home defence was a bit rattled and Allen made a bad back pass to his goalkeeper. You can't do that sort of thing with Luton in this mood, and Busby nipped in smartly, robbed the 'keeper, pulled the ball clear, found space from somewhere and banged the ball into the empty net.

Character

Luton were well worth their win. In the first half Anderson had gone close with a low drive and Fern had headed down perfectly for what looked a certain goal when Goddard made a flying save.



Luton scorer Busby outjumps the Orient defence

It was a most enjoyable match all round. The Luton back four showed character under stress, and the occasional misunderstanding between Garner and Faulkner will be put right with practice. The pair dealt well with Bowyer, and the long balls the former Manchester City man was fed throughout the afternoon.

Thomson looked Luton's most accomplished defender of the day, and he saved Luton's bacon on one occasion by clearing Bullock's effort off the line.

Skipper John Ryan also gave a hard and workmanlike performance and marshalled his defence well.

In the last minute Bowyer went close twice, but Town goalkeeper Barber made a courageous and opportune save to the second effort to keep the points for Luton.

Barber acquitted himself well throughout the afternoon. He winced afterwards as he told me: "I thought that last one had broken my ribs."

But let me hark back to the midfield men. This chap Anderson is rapidly building himself a reputation. He is brimful of ideas and owns a penetrative power that is going to give many a defence a headache this season.

Refreshing

Anderson received all the help he could have wanted from the constructive Fern, who also possesses bags of skill, and from Halom, whose big heart and broad shoulders gave Orient an uncomfortable time.

Up front Jim Ryan and Aston were never afraid to

overtake on the outside and to cross from the by-line for Fern and Busby.

Before very long Luton are going to start a goal collection. So far they have scored only once in each match. Just give them time.

You can't play with six forwards and not score goals. This is refreshing thinking from Luton who deserved their victory as much as they

deserved their praise from Gordon Riddick.

"They played better than us," he said. "I wish I had been given a run against them, you always seem to be able to pull something out against your old club."

In Orient's attack Bullock showed flair, and in defence young Bobby Arber, who took over from Dennis Rofe, had a superb match.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Barber; Ryan (John), Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner, Garner; Ryan (Jim), Fern, Busby, Halom, Aston. Sub: Slough.

ORIENT: Goddard; Arber, Hoadley; Ben-

nett, Harris, Allen; Downing, Brisley, Bullock, Dyson, Bowyer. Sub: Riddick.

REFEREE: Mr Harold Hackney (Barnsley).

ATTENDANCE: 6,494

GOAL: Busby (Luton) 56min.