

Faulkner power inspires Luton

72/73

LUTON'S FIFTH away win of the season was earned with something to spare—until the last 20 minutes, when they were rocked by a side who looked as though they had urgently woken from a bad dream. A frantic succession of corners and massed attacks was baulked by a Luton defence which suddenly seemed vulnerable.

But goalkeeper Keith Barber remained unerringly in control, soaring to the high crosses intended for John Galley, and moving sharply off his line to smother the half chances.

It was all decided in the 12th minute, when centre-half John Faulkner reinforced his forwards, shook off some token marking and nodded Jim Ryan's corner into the net.

City seem no nearer ending their Ashton Gate complex. They are still without a home win this season, although the absence of three key players through injury understandably destroyed the rhythm that had, before yesterday, given them a run of nine games without defeat.

AUTHORITY

Luton, fluent and attractive in attack, had all the authority in mid-field that City miserably lacked.

In the second half, manager Alan Dicks tightened the marking on the aggressive and creative Peter Anderson, but it was too late.

Anderson and Gordon Hindson were rashly allowed the freedom of the ground before the interval.

For Anderson, a first-half booking for dissent offset the satisfaction of an eye-catching display. Skipper John Ryan was similarly booked after the interval.

The unhappy City defence took a strangely long time to come to grips with Luton's

by DAVID FOOT

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mobile forward line. There was extra pressure on players like the reliable Geoff Merrick because of the failure of midfield man John Emanuel, eventually withdrawn.

In the final assault on the Luton goal, Barber saved nimbly from Danny Bartley and smothered another effort from Galley. But Peter Spiring seldom made headway against Bobby Thomson. There were too many negative men in the home side.

Luton's defence, competently sealed up in the middle by Faulkner and Alan Garner, was not badly troubled for three-quarters of the game.

TROUBLE

Mounted police were brought into the ground after fights broke out between rival gangs of supporters. There was trouble on the terraces and in one of the stands. Fifty young fans were ejected.

BRISTOL CITY. — Cashley ; Wilson, Sweeney, Emanuel, Bruton, Merrick, Ritchie, Spiring, Gow, Bartley. Sub : Fear.

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