

FA CUP



SIXTH
ROUND

LUTON OUT IN CUP THRASHING

72/73 (FAC)

LUTON's FA Cup run is over. The issue was settled at Sunderland's Roker Park this afternoon in a game in which Luton's attack never really got going.

The Town defied repeated attacks, but then Sunderland broke through twice in the second half with goals from Watson and Guthrie.

Luton were under constant pressure from the start, and the score might have been a lot different but for some brilliant saves by Keith Barber, who was chosen to play two hours before the kick-off.

Barber's return to the first team comes just 33 days after breaking a bone in his right leg.

The club doctor said that Barber had made an "amazing" recovery. The final showdown came in the club's hotel dining room at lunch time when manager Harry Haslam called Barber and his understudy Willie Carrick together for a chat at the table.

There was another scare for Luton this morning when John Moore reported a back injury. But he, too, was examined by the doctor and said to be fit to play.

As we forecast, Peter Anderson was given the midfield job at the expense of Rodney Fern. And young centre-forward Derek Hales was named as the Luton substitute.

Luton were obviously keeping a close watch on Sunderland's Vic Halom, their old team mate. John Moore soon made it clear that he would be watching him and he got on his tail in the opening seconds.

A long ball into the Luton goalmouth from the left gave Barber his first touch and I must say that he looked confident as he ran out to collect and clear.

The first foul of the match was committed by Halom on Shanks in the centre circle. Shanks ran away as if he hadn't noticed and from the

free kick he got in a shot that went wide.

Then Tueart put in some good ball work to win a corner on the right off Shanks, but it was headed clear by Busby and when the ball went back into the goalmouth it was caught well by Barber.

As the match settled Garner took over the job of marking Halom, leaving Moore free to do his sweeping job. For long spells Halom and Garner were never more than a couple of yards apart.

After Pitt had scrambled to get a through ball from Anderson back to his keeper, Sunderland right-back Malone put through a marvellous clearance for Hughes to chase. But again Barber was out quickly to collect the ball on the edge of the box.

In the 18th minute Luton might have been in bother when Barber failed to collect a high cross from Guthrie. He tried to fist it and missed. But Halom, as always on the far post, headed over.

Attacking

A good left-footed centre by Thomson almost found Aston, but it was just a yard too fast for him and Aston's attempted shot went behind.

But Sunderland continued to do most of the attacking and two good efforts from Tueart from just outside the box were collected by the safe hands of Barber.

Garner and Halom continued to have their rough and ready encounters and there was another when Watson banged a long free kick into

the Luton goal area. But Garner won the tussle and Halom was forced to head the ball behind.

A rare mistake by Thomson let Horswill get through on the right but the ball bobbled as the Sunderland man hit it and it went well wide of the target.

And in the 38th minute, after John Ryan had mis-hit a clearance, a shot from Tueart scraped over the crossbar.

And Luton had another let-off a couple of minutes later when Halom kicked the ball on to Kerr and the little winger's centre flashed across the goalmouth.

Although the Luton defence had withstood a great deal of pressure, the attack rarely got going with Busby being dominated by Pitt up at the front and with wingers Jimmy Ryan and Aston not getting enough of the ball because of the pressure in other departments.

HT: 0-0
Sunderland started the second half where they had left off. A neat flick through the middle by Halom sent Hughes away on the left but after a run he could not keep the ball in play.

Then Shanks was forced to concede a corner which was taken on the left by Kerr. Halom shot over the top from a wide position on the right.

Then Hindson put Aston clear on the left and he won a corner which was pushed quickly to Jim Ryan. But he was robbed in possession in the box and Sunderland set off on another concerted raid.



John Ryan moves in as Sunderland's Tueart tries a breakthrough.

Another determined raid by Hughes on the left brought a well-timed tackle from John Ryan and another corner for Sunderland. Shanks did well, under severe pressure, to clear from the by-line.

Chances

Thomson broke up a Hughes attack in midfield and sent Anderson through to the open space on the left. Anderson was strongly tackled by Malone as he headed into the box and won a corner.

From this, Busby had a fleeting chance but was not quick enough and Sunderland broke clear for Tueart to get in a stray shot at the other end.

But Luton's chances were few and far between. A long free kick by John Ryan might have brought something but Montgomery beat Anderson to the ball. Again Sunderland broke quickly and Thomson gave away another corner.

From this Garner did the same again and Kerr's flag kick from the left brought the first goal of the match.

He curled the ball across the goalmouth and centre-half Watson dived through the Luton defence to score with a strong header.

Sunderland really began to turn it on and Barber was forced to make two brilliant saves at the feet of Hughes who was chasing low centres from the right.

Unlucky

And then the Luton goalkeeper belied his recent injury by going full length to take a free kick from Kerr close to the near post.

Some tremendous work on the right touchline by Jimmy Ryan sparked a Luton move which went across field via Hindson and Anderson to Aston on the left who was unlucky to have his powerful centre blocked.

And then when Busby tried to burst through the middle he was brought down by Pitt. But Anderson's free kick from ten yards outside the box was cleared.

Barber was put in further danger with a long ball from the right but he ran out to fist clear and Jimmy Ryan frustrated any counter-attack.

Barber was hurt in a collision with Porterfield on



Barber, back in the Luton goal, punches clear from Halom.

the edge of the box but it was not his bad leg that was injured.

This was in the 70th minute and while Barber was receiving attention, substitute Hales was sent on at the expense of Aston.

And Luton were in further trouble when Thomson received a back injury as he tried to stop Halom getting in a shot from the right of the penalty box.

Hales sharpened up Luton's attack but their desperate efforts were often foiled by Sunderland putting them off side.

Sunderland's second goal followed another left wing corner eight minutes from the end. It was taken by Hughes this time and after Pitt had headed the ball on, GUTHRIE scooped it into the net on the turn.

MATCH DETAILS

SUNDERLAND: Montgomery, Malone, Guthrie, Horswill, Watson, Pitt, Kerr, Hughes, Halom, Porterfield, Tueart. Sub: Young.

LUTON TOWN: Barber, John Ryan, Thomson, Shanks, Garner, Moore, Jim Ryan, Anderson, Busby, Hindson, Aston. Sub: Hales.

Referee: Mr Jack Taylor (Wolverhampton).

Attendance: 53,151

WATSON (Sunderland)
56 minutes

GUTHRIE (Sunderland)
82 mins.

VERDICT

By ROGER
DUCKWORTH

After being on the defence for most of the first half Luton finally went under to a goal from Sunderland centre-half Dave Watson 11 minutes after half-time.

But the tension between these Second Division rivals never let up as they fought a dour battle for a place in the semi-final of the FA Cup.

And Luton were finally put out of the competition eight minutes from time when another defender, Ron Guthrie, hammered the ball into the net from a Hughes corner.

Sunderland's second goal followed another left wing corner eight minutes from the end. It was taken by Hughes this time and after Pitt had headed the ball on, GUTHRIE scooped it into the net on the turn.

Luton's attack never had a clear-cut opportunity. In the first half they had little service and in the second their attempts were frustrated by a hard-tackling defence.

Throughout the afternoon Busby, who, incidentally had been badly travel sick last night, got little change out of the determined Pitt, and Luton's wingers were kept reasonably quiet.

Unfortunately this had been the department from which Luton had expected to win.

But let's be fair. Sunderland gave this game all they had got and they deserved their coveted place in the semi-final.