

BARBER'S BOOB SO COSTLY

LOWLY Carlisle disposed of Luton with almost consummate ease this afternoon — and boosted their battle for survival in the Second Divison.

United took the lead in the 26th minute after a bad mistake by Keith Barber. The Hatters' keeper, who had to contend with an almost gale force wind, was caught out by a Gorman shot which rebounded off his hands into the net.

Luton went two down 60 seconds before half-time when Owen crashed the ball home. This time Barber had no chance.

Nineteen-year-old Phil O'Connor, former Bexley Southern League player got his big chance at Carlisle this afternoon when he was named as Luton's substitute.

The Hatters were decimated with changes. John Ryan cried off with a muscle injury, Graham French had flu and Busby a groin injury. So Harry Haslam was forced to make several changes after announcing an unchanged team on Thursday.

This meant the return of midfield men Slough and Anderson.

Hales handed out some rough treatment after being fouled by the Carlisle defender who didn't like it very much. But the referee let the incident pass.

A probing pass from Gorman sent Owen on a long chase but Faulkner was faster and scooped the ball from under the nose of the Carlisle centre-forward.

Full-back Gorman was having a fine match. He raced through the middle after a return pass and Luton can be thankful that Barber was wide awake and went out quickly to gather the ball.

Fern did well to control a long, swirling pass from Faulkner and as he made progress towards the box he was tripped up by Carr but Hindson's free-kick came to nothing.

Carlisle did most of the attacking in the first 25 minutes, but the Town defence soaked everything up as they did at Fulham during the week.

Carlisle 2 Luton 0
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

But in the 26th minute a dreadful mistake by Barber let the Northerners go ahead.

The troublesome Gorman banged over a cross from the left. It changed direction somewhat in the wind but Barber was indecisive.

He looked as if he would catch the ball. Then he tried to palm it clear and in the end it slipped off his hands into the net.

The Luton goalkeeper, who has been playing so well, was the picture of dejection.

A couple of minutes later Barber showed that his mistake had not affected his judgement when he went full length to catch a fierce free-kick from Balderstone.

Wide

Then a mistake by Shanks let in Gorman again. But this time the full-back pushed his shot over the top.

Luton could have been in more trouble when a hard shot from Martin sped goalwards. But it hit centre-forward Owen and Barber was let off.

After a long spell without an attack Luton eventually broke clear. Jim Ryan went away on the right and fed the ball inside to Slough. He couldn't get to it but Winstanley conceded a corner from which Faulkner headed just wide.

Barber had another fright when full-back Carr curled

over a high cross. This time he caught it cleanly.

There was almost another upset for Town when a long through ball was chased by Owen. He beat Faulkner for speed but with Barber racing out too, he was hurried into a shot which went wide.

A minute before the break Owen scored a splendid



KEITH BARBER
— dreadful mistake
second goal for Carlisle.

Luton cleared with a free-kick, but with the wind against him Thomson's kick did not go very far.

Carlisle took possession and a move between Laidlaw and Balderstone put Owen into a shooting position and he thrashed the ball past Barber

HT: Carlisle 2 Luton 0

YOUR MATCH FACTS

Carlisle: Ross, Carr, Gorman, O'Neill, Winstanley, Tiler, Martin, Train, Owen, Balderstone, Laidlaw. Sub: Delgado.

Luton: Barber, Shanks, Thomson, Slough, Faulkner, Goodeve, Jimmy Ryan, Anderson, Hales, Hindson, Fern. Sub: O'Connor.

ATTENDANCE 5,517

Referee: Mr J. Goggins (Manchester)

Gorman, Carlisle, 26 OWEN (Carlisle) 44

VERDICT

FOOTBALLERS, like boxers, fight better when they are hungry. And Carlisle are hungry for anything they can lay their hands on at the moment.

That's why they beat Luton this afternoon. They had to. And throughout the match they fought harder and ran quicker than the Town.



Not that Luton gave in easily. They didn't. They gave Carlisle a soft goal start when a Gorman centre swirled on the wind and was palmed in by Barber. A minute before half time Owen cracked in a shot that would have beaten any keeper.

But it was in the second half when, strangely enough, there were no goals, that Carlisle consolidated. The Luton defence was forced to fight its heart out and the Town had some incredible escapes.

After his early mistake Barber pulled off some tremendous saves and Faulkner was again impressive at centre-half.

But Luton lacked the power they had intended to take north because of their late injury problems. Alan Slough did not look fully match fit though no one can fault him for effort.

And again Derek Hales lacked a bit of experience against old stager Winstanley. Nineteen year old Phil O'Connor made his debut when he replaced Hales half way through the second half. He showed some nice touches and might have had a goal, had a shot from the edge of the box not been blocked.



But it just wasn't Luton's day, as was underlined when a dipping shot from Jim Ryan hit the bar and bounced out with three minutes left.

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

The Town were struggling again in the second half. Carlisle forced a series of corners and good work by Hindson, Faulkner and Barber kept them at bay.

Then a mistake by Thomson left Balderstone free on the right. Thomson recovered quickly but was hurt as he tackled the Carlisle man. Balderstone managed to get in his shot but Barber was well stationed on the near post to end the danger.

And Barber was called on again moments later to make a fine diving catch from Balderstone.

Ryan eased the pressure with a right wing run which won the Town a corner. This was cleared but they quickly won a second which Hindson curled into the goalmouth. And Ross found himself in the sort of trouble that had been Barber's lot in the first half.

But O'Neill scrambled the ball clear and Hindson's return shot was weak and wide.

Luton kept on the pressure and two more flag kicks. But they came to nothing.

The strength of the wind was tremendous. A clearance by Barber went the full length of the field into the hands of the Carlisle keeper — with Anderson chasing hard.

At the other end a left wing

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