

Butlin out with a broken jaw

LAST GASP WIN

FOR THE TOWN



Butlin outjumped as Finney looks grounded

OH, what an incredible match for Luton. Barry Butlin out with a broken jaw, two missed penalties and a winning goal three minutes from time.

Butlin's injury is a severe set-back for Town's promotion hopes, but these aspirations were fast becoming a thing of the past as Luton fluffed their penalty chances.

Luton, again greeted by a somewhat thin crowd, were unchanged — except at substitute, where Peter Cruse came back to enable John Ryan to have some match practice with the reserves at Southampton.

Bolton were forced to make changes because leading goal scorer John Byrom injured a leg in the home defeat against Millwall in the League Cup during the week. Malcolm Darling, Jimmy Armfield's £14,000 signing, came back into the attack, with Stuart Lee nominated as substitute.

The Lancashire side started with a long ball into the Town goalmouth. Garner kept guard on the line while Barber ran out quickly to take the ball under pressure from Greaves.

Luton's first attack was sponsored by Anderson. After Jim Ryan had got a rather lucky knock-on, he found Aston on the left, who won a corner.

The kick was badly taken by Ryan, but Bolton made hard work of clearing their lines. The ball was knocked back into the goalmouth for Anderson to get in a clever header which Siddall was a bit lucky to stop.

Spectacular

The pressure was eventually relieved when Bolton were awarded a free-kick for hand ball by Aston.

Bolton's first corner was cleverly taken by Waldron, and he won a second off Finney. This was firmly headed away by Faulkner, who sent Aston clear. Finney

made a lot of ground but was caught off-side.

Bolton found themselves in all sorts of trouble when Aston collected a good pass from Shanks on the right and then sent across a probing centre.

In the 11th minute Siddall produced a spectacular save in tipping a clever chip shot from Aston over the bar.

A free-kick by Thomson was floated into the penalty area, but Butlin could not connect and Paul Jones, who had conceded the kick, headed away decisively.

West took a nasty knock in the face when a hard clearance by Rimmer hit him at short range. He needed treatment to get him back on his feet.

A shot from Darling, which followed good work by Garry Jones, studded across the face of the Luton goal, but it was wide. Bolton's claims that Barber had diverted the ball were in vain.

Good work by Finney and Shanks enabled Butlin to go through by way of a Bolton mistake. The centre forward's shot was miscued, but the ball ran to the left to Aston. He was presented with a chance, but sent the ball over the top.

The match promised much, but Luton always missed out

Luton 2 Bolton 1 73/74
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

with the final pass. But they were playing some good football in midfield, with Garner always ready to go forward to help.

Bolton on the other hand, were always ready to pack their defence, which made it difficult for the Luton forwards to find an opening.

The long throw by Garner was often Luton's most positive means of attack. In the 32nd minute another of these caused havoc in the Bolton defence and Butlin won a corner. Aston took it, and again Butlin and then West were unlucky with headers.

Butlin off

Butlin took a knock in the face in the second incident and, like West earlier, had to have treatment for a head injury.

He looked to be in some trouble and Peter Cruse began to warm up on the touchline.

Butlin eventually staggered to his feet, but was led off the field by trainer Reg Game and coach Roy McCrohan with blood pouring down his face.

But Cruse did not take the field, and Luton were obviously expecting Butlin to return from the dressing room.

Bolton mustered a succession of attacks and finally beat the Town defence. Three shots were blocked before WHATMORE finally swept the ball into the net with Barber making a despairing dive to the right hand post.

Cruse was immediately sent on to replace Butlin.

Shanks fought hard to win a corner which was sent over by Aston. It was a good in-swing, but Siddall jumped well to catch the ball cleanly under pressure from Cruse.

A West header went wide just before half time as black clouds swept low over the ground. The scene looked as murky as Luton's mood.

With the final seconds of the first half ticking away, Aston — Luton's best forward — saw an overhead shot go wide.
HT: 0-1

In the 50th minute Whatmore tried to pay Luton back

for their generosity by tripping Finney in the box. The Luton player wasted no time in going flying and in spite of Bolton's protests referee Castle awarded a penalty.

Aston took it but Barry Siddall, an England Youth goalkeeper, made a great save.

Four minutes later an Anderson header was handled on the line by a defender and Luton were given another penalty. The Bolton players went mad — so did coach Jimmy Conway who raced across the field to talk to the referee. He was lucky to escape a booking.

Everybody, it seemed, was arguing. Bolton were claiming it was not a penalty. Luton were claiming the ball had already crossed the line when the offence took place.

Eventually things quietened sufficiently for the kick to be taken. Aston, having fluffed the first, stood aside, and Jimmy Ryan ran up. He put the ball to Siddall's right but again the keeper saved the kick, pushing the ball on to a post.

But it ran clear to Ryan who scored at the second go. Had Siddall not touched the ball Ryan would not have been able to touch the ball again

before another player had done so.

This was the signal for another row but the goal was rightly allowed to stand. Bolton were angry and for a spell the feet and fists were flying. I don't know why the referee did not do something positive about it.

But things settled naturally and it looked like ending in a 1-1 draw when Luton went ahead — with the "peculiar" goal I referred to earlier.

It looked to me like an own goal by Bolton full-back Don McAllister. Their manager Jimmy Armfield admitted it was McAllister's second own goal in successive matches.

But Harry Haslam insisted it was Don Shanks's goal, saying the Luton full-back got a foot to the ball before McAllister to

steer it past the onrushing Siddall.

The Luton players certainly gathered to congratulate Shanks. On the other hand McAllister lay on the ground on his back holding his head in disbelief.

The other interesting goal fact is that Jim Ryan's goal means every member of the side has scored — with the exception of substitute Cruse and goalkeeper Barber. It was Ryan's first goal of the season.

He deserved it too. He had an outstanding match and was always willing to try the tricky stuff in spite of the rough treatment he had to take.

Luton's man of the match was undoubtedly Alan West whose expertise in possession and his grip on every situation was so conspicuous.

VERDICT

AN incredible second half, in which the Town missed two penalties, left Luton fans disappointed.

Luton had turned round one down, but five minutes after half time John Aston had the chance to give Luton a good start when he took a penalty for a trip on Finney.

But it was saved. Four minutes later, hand ball on the goal line by a defender gave Luton another penalty. This time Jim Ryan stepped up. His first attempt hit the post but he followed up to equalise.

This was a signal for tremendous scenes of anger from the visitors, who felt that both penalties were unjustified.

The Bolton trainer ran on

to the field, but regained his composure and left again.

But Bolton were rattled, and Waldron was lucky to get away with it after punching Cruse in the stomach.

Luton had lost centre-forward Barry Butlin in the first half with a broken jaw. It was this sort of match, with the tough Northerners always ready to mix it and with Luton never quite looking good enough to score goals from the run of play.

They missed plenty of chances, but never really stamped their authority on a rough and ready match,

With three minutes left, Luton stole the point when McAllister diverted a through ball from Anderson past his own goalkeeper.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON: Barber, Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jimmy Ryan, Finney, Butlin, West, Aston. Sub: Cruse.

BOLTON: Siddall, Ritson, McAllister, Rimmer, Paul Jones, Waldron, Darling, Garry Jones, Greaves, Whatmore, Nicholson. Sub: Lee.

Referee: Mr W. S. Castle (Dudley). Attendance: 9,528
WHATMORE (BOLTON) 40min

JIM RYAN (LUTON) 54min McALLISTER (o.g.) 87 min.