

Last-gasp blow!

Whatmore goal as Bolton lose

A CONTROVERSIAL equaliser and a last gasp own goal denied Bolton Wanderers victory after Neil Whatmore had shot them into a 39th-minute lead against Luton at Kenilworth Road today.

Luton were awarded a penalty in the 55th minute and there was uproar as Jim Ryan slotted in the rebound after his shot had appeared to come back to him off the post.

Barry Siddall had already saved a John Aston penalty six minutes earlier but this time, angry Wanderers claimed that the keeper had NOT touched the spot-kick and the goal should not have stood. Then Luton won through a McAllister own goal.

Paul Jones, back in the Bolton side after illness, was soon in action, lobbing the ball into the Luton danger area from the kick-off.

The ball came out of the penalty area, but Rimmer was there to put it back again, and Barber left his line to gather with Whatmore closing in.

Whatmore found Nicholson out on the Bolton left, and Ritson followed

up to join in the attack. But the full-back's cross was not a good one, and the danger was cleared.

Aston won a corner on the Luton left, and when Ryan put the kick over McAllister, and then Greaves, got the ball away. Luton still pressed, and when Siddall saved well from a West header the referee awarded Bolton a free-kick for an infringement in the goalmouth.

WASTED

Waldron worked the ball cleverly in midfield, but his good work was wasted as his pass forward to Darling was too strong.

Rimmer intercepted well to turn the ball behind for a corner when Finney was on the point of moving past him in the Bolton penalty area.

McAllister headed Aston's kick away, and once again the Wanderers failed to clear properly. Nicholson headed away Aston's cross, and Ritson was there to push the ball out for a throw.

Luton's pressure was building up, and a delicate Aston chip brought the best out of Siddall when the Bolton goal-

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Barber; Shanks, Thomson; Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Ryan, Finney, Butlin, West, Aston; sub: Cruse.

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

Referee: Mr W. S. Castle (Dudley).

keeper flung himself to turn the ball over the bar.

Aston put the corner over, but hit the ball too hard, and it ran for a throw-in on the far side of the field.

Paul Jones tackled well to stop Finney in the Bolton penalty area, and again the Bolton centre-half was there to check Ryan.

Luton had the advantage of a strong wind, and one Siddall clearance which reached the half-way line was headed back into the goalkeeper's hands by Faulkner.

Faulkner headed away when Nicholson crossed in to the home goalmouth from the right and when Ritson hit the ball hard and low into the Luton box the ball eluded everyone and ran behind for a goal kick.

The Wanderers were starting to play the ball about more confidently but they didn't look very dangerous.

Darling was caught narrowly off side when Rimmer tried to send him away with a lob.

Paul Jones headed behind for a corner when Garner put another long throw into the Bolton goalmouth. Jones was on the spot again to kick away after Siddall had failed to gather Aston's corner.

The ball came straight back into the Bolton box and Butlin was injured when he collided with a colleague as he tried to get in a header at goal.

The Luton centre forward left the field for treatment but there was no immediate move to replace him.

LECTURE

Darling received a lecture from the referee after a clash with Shanks, and when the free kick from near the centre circle was hit towards the Bolton penalty area, Paul Jones headed into Siddall's hands.

Siddall smothered the ball with Aston trying to get in a shot in a scramble in the Bolton goalmouth, following a free-kick on the right for a McAllister foul on Ryan.

Garner tackled Garry Jones at the expense of a corner as the Bolton man tried to fasten on to a Nicholson pass.

Whatmore floated the kick over but although Paul Jones tried to get in a header the ball ran for a throw.

SCRAMBLE

From the throw McAllister crossed into the Luton goalmouth where a tremendous scramble developed.

Garry Jones tried to get in a shot, then Nicholson tried to shoot, and the ball eluded the diving Barber running towards the post, where WHATMORE dashed in to hit the ball

into the net from near the line to give the Wanderers a 39th-minute lead.

Half-time: Luton Town 0, Bolton Wanderers 1.

It was announced at the interval that Butlin had a fractured jaw.

Waldron tackled to give away a corner as Cruse chased on to an Aston throw.

McAllister headed Ryan's corner away and a

best shot was blocked by Whatmore.

In the 49th minute, the referee awarded Luton a penalty for a Paul Jones foul on Finney. It appeared that the Luton man fell over his own feet in the Bolton box but in spite of protests the penalty award stood.

Aston took the kick and Siddall dived to his left to make a brilliant save just inside the post.

CHASED

Bolton tried to break quickly but a Greaves lob hit Darling as he chased away. The ball had gone over defender Faulkner's head, and if it had not hit Darling he would have been clean through.

Siddall dived to turn a Cruse shot past the post for a West pass then in the 55th minute Luton were awarded another penalty.

An Anderson header at goal in a scramble appeared to be handled by a defender — it wasn't certain who — and after consulting his linesman referee Castle pointed to the spot again.

This time Ryan took the kick and Siddall, flinging himself to his right, appeared to turn the ball onto the post. RYAN was following up and in spite of Siddall's attempts to get the ball he hit it into the net.

Incredible scenes followed the award of the goal with the Bolton players clustering round the referee apparently claiming that Siddall hadn't touched the ball.

Bolton coach Jim Conway was on the field as well calming the Bolton men so that the game could re-start.

The Wanderers made a 65th minute substitution bringing on Lee for Whatmore.

The Wanderers were well on top now and Luton went ahead in a very fortunate manner when an Anderson pass into the Bolton half was diverted past Siddall by McALLISTER in the 88th minute.

Final: Luton Town 2, Bolton Wanderers 1. Attendance: 9,528.