



Luton 'keeper Graham Horn palms a cross away from Frank Worthington.

Luton hit by Earle's class

73/74 (CNC)

STEVE EARLE, at £80,000 the cheapest of Jim Bloomfield's expensive London imports, steered Leicester towards the sixth round with a style which underlined the crucial difference between the sides. Both his goals, in the 18th and 49th minutes, were founded on perception and momentary inspiration.

And after them Leicester slipped confidently into form which must make them a good Cup bet.

Manager Bloomfield enthused: "It was a fantastic performance. They were the best four goals I have ever seen.

"Each one of them was worth the F.A. Cup. We played as well as this before without finishing. Now that we have found the goal touch, we must have a chance."

Luton, for all their running and persistence for an hour, could never match the craft which highlighted Leicester's first goal.

Alan Birchenall, once again superb in midfield, switched the pattern of play with a glorious diagonal pass to the overlapping Denis Rofe, who crossed, and Earle, with immaculate composure, flicked it in.

Luton were unlucky to be behind. Twice defenders had to come to the aid of Leicester's

Luton 0 Leicester 4: by PHILIP OSBORN

header. This time, Steve Whitworth cleared off the line.

Apart from this, Rod Fern had missed a fine chance of scoring against his old club by heading over in the seventh minute. Even after Leicester's opener, Luton, with Anderson buzzing in midfield, pressed strongly.

Jim Husband was occasionally a sharp threat and Graham Cross had to bring him down roughly to earn a 30th-minute booking.

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But Luton's final approaches were too obvious to unduly worry the reliable Cross and Munro.

And after John Sammels had missed an open goal, Earle made it 2-0. Again it was a superbly skilled effort.

minute, was ridiculously easy. As if bemused by the now arrogant Leicester touches, Luton's defenders hardly moved as Keith Weller centred for Worthington to head in.

And the brilliant Weller capped a devastating performance by whisking round four men before shooting the fourth in the 86th minute.

LUTON.—Horn; John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jim Ryan, Husband, Fern, West, Butlin. Sub: Aston.

LEICESTER.—Shilton; Whitworth, Rofe, Earle, Munro, Cross, Weller, Sammels, Worthington, Birchenall, Glover. Sub: Strinsfellow.

Wales try. Phil Bennett had roused great Welsh hopes with a stomach complaint. Peter Rafter, last-minute replacement for Keith Fletcher, who has a