

Big Jack tips beaten Luton

by JAMES FRENCH

Luton 0 Middlesbrough 1

JACK CHARLTON'S Middlesbrough clinched the Division Two title with their eighth successive win and a typically professional performance.

Closest challengers Luton crashed to a 76th-minute goal and only their second home League defeat.

But after the game and a lap of honour by his men, Charlton said: "I still fancy Luton to go up. They are a good team."

The heroes were defenders.

Boro's Graeme Souness, the youngster who did not settle at Tottenham, looked the coolest man on the field and worth many times the £35,000 he cost.

Luton centre half John Faulkner, once Charlton's understudy at Leeds, also had an impressive game, full of key interceptions and clearly won his battle with John Hickton.

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Middlesbrough had two men booked in the first half, Bobby Murdoch for bringing down Jimmy Husband after nine minutes and Jim Cochran for tripping John Aston nine minutes later.

Before the interval David Mills and Alan Foggon both made dangerous crosses that failed to find a marksman. This was also the fate of a good centre by Aston early in the second half.

Luton's Peter Anderson was booked for dissent on the hour. Soon after this his colleague Alan Garner was just over the bar with a long shot.

The decisive goal (76 minutes) was launched by Murdoch on the right touchline. His pass was crossed by Foggon into the goalmouth where Mills, with his back to the goal, turned and mishit a slow shot that went in off an upright.

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

MIDDLESBROUGH.—Platt; Craggs, Cochran, Souness, Boam, Maddren, Murdoch, Mills, Hickton, Foggon, Armstrong. Sub: Smitr.