

'Boro found opponents determined

THE top Second Division match of the day, Luton v Middlesbrough, attracted the best League gate of the season on the Kenilworth Ground. Middlesbrough had a large following hoping to see Jack Charlton's boys clinch the Second Division championship. Middlesbrough needed a win, and a double, to win the title outright. Luton, however, were hoping to avenge an early season 2-1 defeat at Ayresome Park.

The home side were unchanged, but Middlesbrough brought in 19-year-old Jimmy Cochrane at left-back for Frank Spraggon, who was down with 'flu.

Teams:
LUTON: Horn, John Ryan, Thompson, Anderson, Faulkner, Garner, Jimmy Ryan, Husband, Butlin, West, Aston. Sub: Hindson.
MIDDLESBROUGH: Platt, Craggs, Cochrane, Souness, Boam, Maddren, Murdoch, Mills, Hickton, Foggon, Armstrong. Sub: Smith.
Referee: D. Spencer (Wootton Bassett).

Middlesbrough, given a great reception as they lined up in the middle of the field before the kick off, swung into the attack in the early stages without testing Horn in the Luton goal.

Platt was brought into action at the other end though both

sides took some time to settle. The ball was lively on a very hard pitch.

After nine minutes, Murdoch brought Husband down from behind. The referee raced across the pitch to immediately book the Middlesbrough midfielder star.

Husband was not really hurt with the challenge, which probably looked worse than it was because Murdoch caught the former Everton star in flight for goal.

Middlesbrough had not yet got into their stride on this bumpy pitch. At the same time, they had not been in any difficulty in defence.

Goalscorers

Mills ('BORO) 76min.

After 15 minutes Middlesbrough came near to taking the lead Mills moved in anticipation for a cross by Craggs.

A glancing header from close range beat Horn but full back Ryan saved the danger for Luton by virtually kicking off the goalline.

A narrow escape for Luton. Alderson held off a Souness challenge out on the left. Anderson progressed right to the bye-line and then pulled the ball back.

Fortunately for Middlesbrough, no Luton team mate had backed this up. Hickton had raced back to help out and he decided to play safe by booting the ball out for a corner.

After 18 minutes the referee had his book out again. This time he cautioned Cochrane, who was making his second first team appearance.

Cochrane brought down Aston with a tackle but a booking

73/74

Luton 0 Middlesbrough 1

BACK PAGE

'Boro

FROM PAGE ONE

was drastic and unnecessary action.

Middlesbrough began to get on top. Their attack was creating danger and Hickton should have put them ahead. Instead the centre forward was off target with his shot.

The Luton forwards were not really causing much threat and Middlesbrough were looking more in control as half-time approached.

Neither goalkeeper, however, had really had an opportunity to show their worth.

Play was stopped while Anderson received treatment on the field for a leg injury.

LONG RANGE

While the Luton player was being treated, the Middlesbrough trainer stepped on the field to treat the injured finger of Luton centre half Faulkner.

A long-range throw in by Garner could have proved dangerous for Middlesbrough. The ball bounced at the near post and Platt had to be alert to concede a corner.

Foggon finally broke clear of the Luton defence and crossed to Mills. The unmarked Mills had shown good anticipation in moving forward but, unfortunately for Middlesbrough, he slipped in the box.

Luton looked as though they were expecting offside, but there was no signal from a linesman.

Shortly before half time Mills raced forward to challenge Horn. The striker could not check himself and crashed into the goalkeeper. Mills was obviously hurt and lay inside the box. The referee, however, refused to allow a trainer to come onto the field. A shaken Mills was soon back in action.

The game was not really flowing at this stage. There were a number of stoppages with a strict referee.

Just on the interval Boam joined the Middlesbrough forwards for an Armstrong corner. The centre half rose above everyone else in the box but was wide with his header and Horn was not troubled.

Half-time:—

Luton	0
Middlesbrough	0



STUART BOAM
grafted hard for 'Boro.

Luton attacked for a spell early in the second half and there were anxious moments in the Middlesbrough defence.

Boam came to the rescue on two occasions, clearing out of the packed penalty area and then checking Jimmy Ryan as the winger burst through.

Both teams wanted a win to boost their respective targets so the accent continued on attack.

FIERCE

Souness moved up for Middlesbrough and had a fierce shot from inside the penalty deflected for a corner. Anderson protested and was immediately booked.

Boam tried to save the Luton wing half from this caution, but his intervention was not successful.

Luton were piling on pressure and Platt was certainly the busier goalkeeper at this stage.

Middlesbrough had not shown anything like their best rhythm. Indeed, so far, they had been disappointing in attack.

Murdoch had not made any impression and the strikers had struggled of a break through.

It looked as though one goal would settle it but that one goal from either side, was looking very elusive.

MILLS shot Middlesbrough ahead after 76 minutes.

Middlesbrough fans greeted the goal with a tremendous roar and shortly after Mills was not far off target with a header following a Foggon free kick.

Final—

LUTON	0
MIDDLESBROUGH	1