

THREE WAYS TO SAY PROMOTION

Luton 3 Millwall 0

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

LUTON smashed their way nearer the First Division today with three fine goals which left Millwall helpless.

The game was packed with excitement and the goals from Faulkner, Anderson and Hindson virtually secured Luton's future next season.

Just after the second half the match was halted for four minutes when fans spilled on to the pitch. The drama was caused by a barrier at the Oak Road end giving way under pressure.

And what looked like fighting was, in fact, people struggling to escape from being rushed.

Before the kick-off of today's crucial promotion battle by the Town, another local hero, gold medal winner Ian Thompson, did a lap of honour — to show his medal to the Luton crowd.

He was accompanied by those other outstanding Luton runners Tony Simmons, and Ray Hearn.

The trio got a tremendous reception from the crowd — and so did the Luton team when they ran out for what they hoped was the match that would put them in Division One.

Before the start there was some fighting in the Oak Road end, and several fans were hauled out by the police.

A fairly large crowd got behind Luton from the start, and there was a great roar of appreciation when full-back John Ryan, who has been playing so well recently, broke up a Millwall attack and got the ball back to Horn.

Luton went straight on to the attack, and clever work by Aston and Anderson on the left ended with a tremendous shot from Jimmy Ryan being blocked both painfully and luckily by Cripps.

The Town continued to press, but there was no joy for Anderson when he appealed for a penalty after going full length on the edge of the box. Luton did not even get a free kick.

Jimmy Ryan split the

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

Referee: Mr T. Reynolds (Swansea).

Faulkner Luton 8 mins.
Anderson (Luton) 18 mins.
Gordon Hindson (Luton) 68 minutes

MILLWALL: King, Jones, Crisp, Dorney, Kitchener, Alder, Saul, Clark, Wood, Smethurst, Hill. Sub: Bolland.

Attendance: 15,740

Millwall defence with a peach of a through ball for West but the midfielder man fluffed his shot which was nowhere near the target.

More good football from Jimmy Ryan in midfield sent Anderson on another chase towards the Millwall goal. It brought a corner on the left which Jim Ryan curled over and Faulkner headed in for Luton's first goal.

Millwall tried to hit back, but Clark came off worst when he tried to shoulder charge Horn.

At the other end a great piece of football by Aston sent him round the outside of his full-back and Husband just mis-hit the cross which might well have brought a second goal.

Luton were playing the more attractive football, and Millwall's efforts were mainly

from outside the box. One of these, from Frank Saul, was cleanly caught by Horn.

Husband was flattened by a heavy tackle from behind by Dorney, and Jim Ryan's free kick was headed narrowly past his own goal by Saul.

Luton took another step towards the First Division in the 18th minute with a brilliant goal from Peter Anderson.

Aston put a tremendous ball through the Millwall defence, Anderson chased, and with goalkeeper King bearing down on him, calmly lobbed it over the keeper's head into the empty net.

A minute later a similar move nearly came off with Husband charging through, but this time the Town got no more than a corner.

This produced two further flag kicks, and the Town's



Surprise, surprise. Garner can't hide his feelings as John Faulkner (5) heads Luton's first

By PHIL LONGMAN

TWO YOUTHS — one from Millwall and the other a Luton fan — were rushed to hospital with stab wounds a few minutes before the kick-off.

An ambulance spokesman said one of the fans was taken away on a stretcher, but the other was a "walking case".

A spokesman for Luton and Dunstable hospital confirmed that the two fans had been admitted, but they could not give their conditions.

Luton police had no more details of the incident, and an inspector in the police room at the Kenilworth Road ground refused to comment.

eager forwards had the Millwall defence in a muddle. Centre half Kitchener was hurt and had to have treatment while Luton waited for Jim Ryan to bang over the third corner. But it was easily cleared.

There looked to be no stopping the Town, and when Thomson's long centre was nodded on by Butlin, Husband shot on the turn and was only just wide.

Millwall had to wait until the 23rd minute for their first corner which was conceded by Garner for safety reasons. But the Luton defence was in good form and Millwall were not allowed to get in a shot.

An astute crossfield pass by Husband found West racing away on the right, but he shot too soon and was wide.

Another good move by Aston in midfield sent West racing through on the right. After some thought he beat Jones before crossing, and the ball whipped across the goalmouth at crossbar height which was just a bit too high for Butlin.

And after a quick throw by Thomson, another good cross by Aston produced a shot from Husband that was scrambled away.

Before the excitement died

Anderson powered in and after waiting for the right moment, saw his close-range effort go wide.

Aston was having a terrific game on the left, and he continually found openings from which to cross the ball. Both Anderson and Husband fed hungrily off his efforts.

In the 38th minute Millwall had bad luck when a good cross from Alder was headed just over by Wood with Horn struggling. But the Millwall centre-forward had fouled Thomson and it wouldn't have counted anyway.

Another good run by Aston ended with a shot when he entered the box. It carried tremendous power and King had to parry it first.

Unfortunately the effort seemed to have injured Aston who limped back towards the centre while Millwall prepared to take a free kick some ten yards outside the box. It was pushed to one side by Saul, and Smethurst shot over.

Luton trainer Reg Game ran on to tend Aston sporting a huge Whitbread tankard motif on his track suit. The local brewery had sponsored today's game which was televised by London Weekend for showing tomorrow afternoon.

A good run by Husband on the right ended with a good cross which Jones was thankful to head behind for a left

Verdict

LUTON are virtually certain of First Division football next season. It still needs a slide rule to work out the different permutations, but today's rip-roaring win has put a smile on Luton's face again.

After their disappointing Easter they sorted out the Londoners comprehensively.

And it was a fairy tale finish to the season for Luton's eternal substitute Gordon Hindson who came on in the 56th minute for Aston, and 12 minutes later slammed in Luton's third goal — the goal that could well give them First Division status.

Centre half Faulkner, who had a grand game, put Luton ahead when he nodded in a Jim Ryan corner in the eighth minute. Ten minutes later Anderson did a brilliant job when he chased an Aston pass through the Millwall defence and lobbed it over King's head for number two.

While Luton were in complete control they always looked as if they could do with another goal, and Hindson provided it when he chased Garner's pass through the offside trap and scored with the calm of a seasoned veteran.

Regular announcements as to the scores at the other games gave the Luton fans even more to cheer about.

In attack Aston and Husband gave outstanding performances as did Anderson in midfield and John Ryan at right back.

restarted Luton nearly scored their third goal. A hard low



It's around here somewhere. A Millwall defender outjumps Butlin (9)

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