

LUTON SHUT OUT OSGOOD, CHANNON

BOTH MANAGERS seemed happy after this Texaco Cup opening to the season. What was on their minds was not revealed, but for the record both declared themselves satisfied. But to the impartial onlooker this was a disappointing game even allowing for the sultry conditions.



PETER OSGOOD
... out of form

Luton, who have replaced Southampton in the First Division, are still enjoying the euphoria generated by promotion and their boss, Harry Haslam, very properly said: "I'll have more to tell when we meet Liverpool on August 17."

He was understandably pleased with his defence

BY SIMON SMITH

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which lacked John Faulkner, absent through illness. They faced two international forwards and did well. Harry pointed out. But the impact which those two star names failed to make must be one of Southampton's major worries.

Mick Channon will find it very hard in the Second Division unless he gets more support. He had to play a lone hand in a sadly disjointed side and Peter Osgood was a long way short of his England and Chelsea form.

The old flare was missing. One header which might have been better placed—keeper Graham Horn turned it over the top—and one or two neat touches was all we had from him.

Luton showed more purpose and stretched Saints' defence alarmingly at times. At close range however they lacked the final ounce of punch and accuracy.

Pushed

The first-half clearly belonged to Luton yet Southampton might have scored twice through Channon before Luton went ahead after 41 minutes when goalkeeper Ian Turner pushed Gordon Hindson's in-swinging corner into his own net by the near post.

After the interval Saints replaced Turner with Eric Martin. Luton refused to name a substitute goalkeeper—"We won't be able to do it in the League," said Haslam.

A poor second half produced an equaliser right out of the blue when Channon squared the ball to Lew Chatterley who found the top corner of the net with a surprise packet from 25 yards.

Otherwise, Chatterley spent the afternoon operating uncertainly in a midfield vacuum. How Southampton are going to miss Terry Paine.

Steve Litt, 19, capable deputy for Faulkner, went off in a daze after a knock on the nose and Paul Fletcher, not yet 18, came on and found the remaining 28 minutes long enough to make a pleasing impression.

● There was some fighting on the terraces. Police ejected half-a-dozen youngsters and first aid teams helped two others away.



Eyes front! Luton 'keeper Graham Horn and Mike Channon of Southampton go for a cross.