

Confidence boost for the big one

ORIENT 2 LUTON TOWN 2

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(TC)

On Saturday's showing Orient can this weekend face once-mighty Manchester United with rather more confidence than promoted Luton are entitled to display against Liverpool.

Compared with their earlier games at West Ham and Southampton, Orient's form was a revelation.

And, logically, the outcome should have been full points plus a bonus award for three goals against opponents who were both a dire disappointment and outrageously lucky to come so close to a place in the Texaco Cup quarter-finals.

Luton, possibly now pre-occupied with the imminence of First Division soccer — and on Saturday's form — survival, seemed to scorn the last-eight place that beckoned after their convincing win at West Ham.

When Tom Walley shot Os into a 21st-minute lead from all of 25 yards, his side looked poised to demolish their opponents with a four-star blend of soccer that augured well for the League campaign ahead.

Walley, with luck, might have had a hat-trick and manager George Petchey will surely consider retaining him in his new midfield role when a full squad is available.

Orient dictated things for almost an hour, only for Luton to reply with a rapid one-two.

Their two in three minutes spree came via Jimmy Husband — who capitalised upon Ricky Heppolette's careless back pass — and Barry Butlin, and it changed the pattern of things.

Indeed, Luton's lack of the killer streak—a third goal could, so far as they were aware, have assured them of progress — said little for their new-found Division One status.

Orient, after twice hitting the woodwork with splendid second-half efforts from Ricky Heppolette and Walley, deservedly snatched their first Texaco Cup point with an 87th-minute equaliser from GERRY QUEEN.

Youthful Bobby Fisher and substitute Laurie Cunningham were very much involved in setting up this goal. And in Fisher's case this helped nullify a rash tackle on Gordon Hindson that brought him a booking, and marred an otherwise elegant performance that has surely earned him a place in this

weekend's League line-up against Tommy Docherty's men.

Orient: Jackson (Goddard), Fisher, Roffey, Hoadley, Harris, Walley, Fairbrother (Cunningham), Possee, Bullock, Heppolette, Queen.

Luton Town: Horn, Shanks, Thompson, Anderson, Litt, Garner, Ryan, Husband (Aston), Butlin, West, Hindson.