

LAMPARD & BONDS PUNISH LUTON'S DEFENSIVE LAPSES

By ROBERT OXBY

74/75

West Ham 2 Luton 0

LUTON, newcomers to the First Division, learned last night at Upton Park how heavily teams can be punished for the slightest mistakes in defence. Two technical errors in the first 19 minutes gave West Ham their goals.

Horn, the Luton goalkeeper, punched out a centre instead of catching it and Lampard scored in the fourth minute. Then the near post was left unguarded at a corner and Bonds headed the second.

Notably, neither of the goals came from a forward, a fact that underlined West Ham's urgent search for extra striking power. Best, their lone central attacker, was always overwhelmed by numbers.

Greenwood absent

Ron Greenwood, their manager, who missed the heavy defeat by Manchester City on Saturday, was absent again. He went to Millwall, presumably to look at Alf Wood, the transfer-listed striker.

Despite their two points, West Ham, apart from the steel provided by Bonds and Lampard, still look too fragile to make any bigger impact on the First Division than they did last season.

Luton, however, despite suffering their second defeat, looked a highly promising side and they were in control of affairs for most of the last hour.

Superb Day

They were only thwarted by some superb goalkeeping by Day, whose clean catching and electric reflexes drew applause even from the players. One 70th-minute save from John Ryan, who hit the ball fiercely through a crowd of players, was in the miracle class.

Luton's main asset was their quick breaking from defence, for which the gifted and tireless West was usually responsible. He received splendid support from Anderson and Aston.

Butlin, who dominated in the air against Liverpool on Saturday, beat Taylor so monotonously that the crowd cheered ironically when the West Ham defender did win the ball.

Two booked

In a match that generally was a sporting credit to both sides, Roger Kirkpatrick, the referee had to book Best for fouling Anderson and Ryan for bringing down Brooking.

West Ham's first goal came when Horn punched McDowell's high centre to Lampard, who hit the ball inside the near post. The second followed when Horn

saved a Bonds' volley at the expense of a corner.

Paddon sent over the cross and the alert Bonds stole to the neglected near post and glanced the ball home with his head. Horn redeemed himself with a wonderful 33rd-minute save from Holland.

Earlier, Hindson had struck the West Ham bar. In the 40th minute, Luton lost the skilful Garner with a leg injury. He was replaced by Shanks.

Luton were in control after the break, but with Day making outstanding saves from Hindson and Butlin, they could never get the goal they so richly deserved.

West Ham.—Day; McDowell, Lampard, Bonds, Taylor, Lock, Holland, Paddon, Ayris, Brooking, Best.

Luton.—Horn; Ryan (John), Thomson, Anderson, Litt, Garner (sub. Shanks, 40 min), Aston, Husband, Butlin, West, Hindson.



Billy Bonds outjumps the Luton defence to head home West Ham's second goal from a corner.