

Don't be fooled by this Billy



ABOVE: Full-back Frank Lampard scores his first goal of the season and helps engineer West Ham's first win of the new campaign against Luton at Upton Park on Monday. Bonds completed the scoring soon after.

West Ham 2Luton.....0
BEFORE THE game West Ham skipper Billy Bonds promised the Upton Park faithfuls a win to help erase memories of Saturday's opening day fiasco at Maine Road.

I'm sure Hammers were as surprised as anyone else at the ease in which the first division new boys were put in their place.

Surely West Ham will not pick up an easier two points — for it was Luton, paper thin at the back and completely devoid of any ideas up front, who contributed to their own downfall.

The absence of a tackler in their defence made it a field day for Best and John Ayris, given a run out in preference to Bobby Gould.

They were able to go just wherever they wanted without the slightest fear of reprimand — but even with this invitation to make merry, West Ham still showed the same inability to create chances.

Started well

They started like a house on fire — a goal up within four minutes another in 18 minutes and Luton were on the rack — but from then on it was the same old story despite some lively work from Brooking and Holland in the middle.

To run the rule over West Ham after such a flattering scoreline would only cloud the issue — better they prove themselves against sterner opposition before one can start talking of better days at Upton Park.

But as usual they gave that glimmer of hope in an opening half hour when Ayris looked live-

by
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ly, Best unstoppable and Brooking in complete control.

But it was left to defender Frank Lampard to add the real bite, after just four minutes.

Lampard was well up in support when John McDowell slung a high cross into the Luton Box, goalkeeper Horn could only knock the ball away under Best's challenge and the ball rolled invitingly for Lampard to volley Upton Park's first goal of the season.

Crossed well

West Ham should have gone two up seven minutes later when Ayris crossed well from the right and Best, unable to control his header placed it high back across the face of the goal to Brooking at full stretch, who headed onto the top of the bar—getting an elbow in his face from Thomson for his efforts.

It was during this spell that Hammers looked their best, and it was Ayris again who set up a chance for Bonds to bend in a crisp volley which Horn turned aside with a fine save.

But Bonds did not have to wait much longer to get his name on the scoresheet — from the resulting corner he beat a posse of chasing Luton defenders to head firmly past Horn.

Nothing had been seen of Luton as an attacking force, despite the alarming ease at which striker Barry Butlin beat Tommy Taylor in the air, but their first chance came after 25 minutes when skipper Thomson touched a short free kick to Gordon Hindson who thundered a shot against the crossbar with Day unsighted.

Eager

Hammers had a mighty let-off on the half hour when Upton