

UPSET LUTON FACE A TOUGH TRIP TO BORO

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Horn, John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Litt, Garner (Shanks 36min), Hindson, Husband, Butlin, West, Aston.

WEST HAM: Day, McDowell, Lampard, Bonds, Taylor, Lock, Holland, Paddon, Ayris, Brooking, Best. Sub: Gould.

REFEREE: Mr R. Kirkpatrick (Leicester).

ATTENDANCE: 23,192.

GOALS: Lampard (West Ham, 5mins). Bonds (West Ham, 18mins).

ALTHOUGH they were more outplayed in defeat at Upton Park last night than they were at Kenilworth Road on Saturday, Luton are now faced with the daunting task of going to soccer's resurgent hotbed of Middlesbrough at the weekend with nothing to show from their first two games in the First Division.

Nothing to show, that is, except an injured defender and a hurt pride. Alan Garner limped sadly to the tunnel last night after failing to recuperate from an ankle injury despite touchline treatment.

He must be a real doubt for the weekend. After the match manager Harry Haslam could only say: "We just don't know how bad it is yet. We don't know if it's a kick or a twist."

But happily, John Faulkner

By **ROGER DUCKWORTH**
West Ham 2 Luton Town 0

will be available again, having served his suspension through three hours of misery. "It's been awful, bloody dreadful, sitting and watching it," he said.

Not that Steve Litt, his 19-year-old understudy has done badly. He's done very well. All he lacks is experience. Last night he gave his all, jumping well and fighting strongly with the muscular Clyde Best.

But it was in defence that Luton slipped up in the first half. They had the dreadful job of having to reorganise their defence, because of Garner's misfortune, after going two goals down.

The first goal came after five minutes when Graham Horn fisted a hard right-wing cross somewhat feebly to the delighted Lampard, standing expectantly on the edge of the box. He thrashed it back past Horn for West Ham's first goal of the season.

Crossbar

Luton tried to remember that they had already beaten this side in the Texaco Cup, but they couldn't reproduce much of their recent attacking flair.

Big Trevor Brooking headed a corner against Horn's crossbar and Bonds headed the second goal from another Paddon corner after Horn had saved his shot with a lucky foot.

All was frantic and erratic in Luton's make-up. Referee Roger Kirkpatrick allowed Taylor to repeatedly body-check the high-jumping Barry Butlin, and when the former Orient centre-half was finally penalised Hindson bent the crossbar with a fierce free kick.

That's the way the luck goes when you are struggling. Then Mr Kirkpatrick mistook a push on Hindson for obstruction and gave an indirect free kick in the box — much to Luton's ire. Although it was taken twice it came to nought.

Afterwards Mr Haslam claimed it should have been a penalty. "When I went to school there was no such thing as half penalties," he stormed.

But he was not despondent. "I thought we picked our heads up in the second half," he said. "Okay, we've been beaten twice in three days.

"West Ham still have to come to Luton. If you can't lose, you can't win. On Saturday we go to Middlesbrough. We never mind going to the North East. We always play well up there."

Luton's man of the match was left-back Bobby Thomson, whose tackling and covering was coupled with speed and precision.

Luton might have come home with some reward had the midfield players been allowed to play further forward by West Ham and feed off the heading ability of Butlin.

Alan West had a superb night, showing fight and skill, but Luton's trouble seemed to be one of communications, with the different departments not being able to liaise — especially in the first half.

Later in the evening things got better. I will never know how Mervyn Day, a fine young keeper, held one of the hardest shots I have seen, from John Ryan, or how Jimmy Husband missed an open goal from a John Aston cross in the second half.