

SWINGING IPSWICH ARE TOP AGAIN

74/75

By Tony Garnett

IPSWICH climbed back on top of the First Division table thanks to this afternoon's convincing victory over newly-promoted Luton Town at Kenilworth Road. For an hour Ipswich were simply devastating and in that time they established a three-goal lead through Brian Talbot (nine minutes), Bryan Hamilton (30 minutes), and a Talbot penalty on the hour.

Then Luton, who never lost hope, pulled a goal back with an Adrian Alston header in the 67th minute. Ipswich absorbed heavy pressure before Trevor Whymark nodded in number four 10 minutes from the end.

Ipswich supporters who arrived at the ground early were amazed to see Johnson and Lambert both having fitness tests.

Johnson's strained ankle ligaments have made a dramatic recovery but it was decided not to take a chance with him, particularly in view of next Wednesday's UEFA Cup-tie against FC Twente.

Lambert had been suffering from a twinge behind the knee but was declared fit.

Luton Town: Barber; Shanks, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Ryan (John), Hindson, Husband, Butlin, West, Alston. Sub: Ryan (Jim).

Ipswich Town: Sivell, Burley, Mills, Talbot, Hunter, Beattie, Hamilton, Viljoen, Woods, Whymark and Lambert. Sub: Gates.

Referee: Mr. T. H. C. Reynolds (Swansea).

Ipswich kicked off and a long ball by Beattie gave Barber his first taste of action although he was under no pressure.

Clever play

The Suffolk side started confidently enough and it was good to see Beattie winning his first taste for a high ball with Butlin.

In the third minute Beattie drove the ball upfield, Whymark slipped it to his left, but John Ryan was there to intercept as Woods closed in.

A cross from Shanks put Ipswich under pressure but once again Beattie won the ball in the air and nodded it behind for a corner. Ipswich were showing magnificent skill

and must have impressed Les Cocker, the former League trainer who is now assistant to England's boss, Don Revie.

Hunter was showing a sense of urgency and started a move which almost led to a goal. Burley collected the square pass in his own half and knocked the ball down the touchline, where Whymark's persistence forced a corner.

Lambert's flag-kick was glanced across the box by Beattie, and Woods, closing in from the left, flicked his shot against the bar. It was so close to being a great goal.

In the seventh minute

Beattie handled under pressure in defence and had an anxious moment while being lectured by the referee, but he escaped suffering his second booking of the season.

In the 30th minute Ipswich added a second goal. Luton appealed for handball against Talbot in mid-field but the referee gave Ipswich the benefit of the doubt and indicated that play should continue. Talbot switched the point of attack wide to Lambert who, in turn, found Woods on the left. Woods' first effort at beating John Ryan on the edge of the box ended with the Ipswich

they were certainly back on song after the interval tactical talk. In the 54th minute Lambert took a knock on his leg and limped off the field for treatment. It was clearly an injury that needed attention and Gates was introduced as substitute.

Talbot penalty

Woods and Shanks were warned to cool it down by the referee and then came a spell of Luton pressure in which Butlin had a header deflected over the top following a cross by Hindson. Then Sivell got down quickly to save from Alston who was allowed a clear shot.

On the hour Ipswich added a third goal from the penalty spot. Gates chased a long through ball and John Ryan held the Ipswich substitute back. The incident occurred well inside the penalty area and the referee pointed to the spot. TALBOT sent Barber the wrong way with a fierce drive to the keeper's right.

Now surely it was almost all over bar the shouting but in the 67th minute Luton kept a glimmer of hope alive with a magnificent header from ALSTON from a cross by Shanks.

Mills began to limp after being brought down by Husband. Then Anderson put in a dangerously late challenge for a through ball and Sivell who had already gained possession took a severe knock although he was able to carry on after treatment.

Luton never gave up and in the 77th minute Hunter was booked for tripping Hindson.

In the 80th minute John Ryan fouled the busy Gates and Viljoen chipped the free-kick with precision for WHY-MARK to head home number 4 and seal the Ipswich victory. Result:

LUTON TOWN 1
IPSWICH TOWN 4

Attendance: 17,577.

LUTON 1, IPSWICH 4

Hunter brought down Anderson some 25 yards out, West, the £100,000 signing from Burnley, beat the Ipswich defensive wall with his shot, but Sivell showed tremendous reflexes by fisting the ball over the top.

Ipswich ahead

In the ninth minute Ipswich took the lead from their second corner — this time from the left. Lambert crossed to the near post and Hamilton knocked the ball back to give Viljoen the chance of a shot on the run. He drove the ball low across the face of goal and it was partially cleared to TALBOT who banged home a lethal drive from just inside the box. Barber, who must have been unsighted, stood no chance at all.

West was penalised for a late challenge on Talbot in mid-field. Mills floated the free-kick forward and Faulkner was thankful to head behind. Once again Lambert's flag-kick caused chaos in the Luton goal-mouth as Beattie charged in to head inches over the top.

Ipswich were almost in complete control in mid-field.

In the 18th minute Talbot tricked Alston, the Australian World-Cup player and pulled the ball back from the by-line for Hamilton who kicked air instead of the ball when trying to shoot under pressure.

Luton were shaky at the back and when Barber misjudged the flight of a free-kick from Burley it was left to Faulkner to save the day by heading over his own bar.

leader collecting a re-bound from off Ryan's legs. This time Woods jinked past his man in brilliant fashion and chipped accurately into the goalmouth for HAMILTON to head home from eight yards.

Ipswich had been producing some spells of devastating football although they were shaken in the 37th minute when Hindson flashed a 30-yarder narrowly over Sivell's bar.

Just before the interval Luton almost pulled a goal back Hunter fouled Butlin and West floated the free-kick into the goalmouth. Anderson went up forcefully with Sivell and the ball ran loose. Beattie was first on the scene and knocked it behind with the Town defence in confusion for the first time in the game.

Then West swung the ball across from the right, Husband roared in but failed to make contact but did enough to deceive Sivell who was fortunate that the ball rebounded from his knee. Half time:-

LUTON TOWN 0
IPSWICH TOWN 2

The second half started quietly with Ipswich well aware that they needed only to keep their heads to collect their fourth away win of the season.

A back-pass from Hamilton appeared to lack pace as Husband raced in but Sivell spotted the danger and left his line at speed.

Nearly a third

In the 48th minute Ipswich were almost given a third goal on a plate. Burley chipped the ball forward but it was too high for Whymark. Anderson glanced it back to his keeper quite unaware that Barber had run to the edge of the box. The Luton defenders stood like helpless statues as the ball bounced a foot the wrong side of the post.

In the 50th minute Barber brought off a spectacular save when Beattie got his head to a corner from Lambert. The keeper touched the ball over the bar and it landed on the top netting.

Ipswich had ended the first half with a lethargic 10 minutes