

ALSTON GOAL CAN'T SAVE THE HATTERS

A FINE goal from new boy Adrian Alston put Luton back in the match this afternoon . . . but it came far too late.

Ipswich looked winners from the start and humbled the Hatters by banging in four goals — one a penalty — to give Luton their poorest match of the season.

Luton struggled on after the Australian World Cup star's goal, but Ipswich scored again near the end to clinch it.

Luton had tough guy centre-half John Faulkner back in the side today. He was missing on Wednesday night when the Town beat Bristol Rovers 1-0 in the League Cup.

Ipswich also had a change centre-half with Allan Hunter coming back for John Peddely. Hunter has been on the transfer list, but this week he decided to stay at Portman Road and was a welcome addition for the Suffolk side.

So Luton were able to field the same side that did so well to draw at Elland Road last week. And everybody at Luton knew that today was crunch day for the Town.

They were still looking for their first win before today's kick-off and Ipswich were full of confidence with five wins from six matches. They have only lost once — 3-1 at Sheffield United where Luton go in the third round of the League Cup in October.

There was a great roar from the Ipswich contingent when Hunter won his first ball and thumped through a hard ball for centre-forward Woods to chase. But John Ryan got there first and got the ball back to Barber.

A minute before Ryan lost his first challenge with Woods, but Faulkner beat Whymark in the air to give the Luton defence confidence.

Thomson conceded Luton's first corner in the fifth minute after a tussle with Lambert. Lambert took the corner and the Luton defence was in a right old mess as Woods nipped in to scoop a shot against Barber's right hand post. It was a real let off for the Town and the little bit of the sort of luck they need if they are to record their first win.

But two minutes later Ipswich had a similar break when West flighted a free kick from outside the box on to the top of the Ipswich crossbar and saw it bounce into the Kenilworth Road crowd. The free kick was given for a foul that halted an enthusiastic run by Anderson.

Competent Ipswich went ahead after nine minutes. Shanks conceded a corner with a high lob back and it was swung across by Lambert from the left. The ball was half

Luton 1 Ipswich 4
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

cleared to Viljoen whose shot was blocked and the rebound found Talbot who shot past Barber straight through a crowded penalty box.

While they had looked short of strength in attack, Luton must have been well pleased with the heading ability of Faulkner who beat Whymark in their first three or four encounters.

Both the Luton team and the massed fans needed some goalmouth opportunity and one hardly felt that a long and wayward shot from Thomson was the sort of way in which to bring it about.

Talbot appeared to handle fractionally outside the Ipswich box, but referee Tom Reynolds allowed Luton to play on with Anderson in possession, but again Luton's ambition fizzled out.

The Luton defence got itself into further bother when Lambert and Woods started to buzz and a clever dribble across his own penalty area by West and a frantic clearance by Ryan eased the pressure.

And the Luton defence was reduced to a shambles when a cross from the right was ignored by everybody, with Barber as much to blame as anyone. And again Luton were lucky.

Luton were looking out-classed for the first 25 minutes and when Ipswich were given a free kick, just on the corner of the penalty area, there was nobody marking full back Mills who ran on to Viljoen's short free kick with all the time in the world and then mucked it up by sending his shot over the shed into Oak Road.

But the incident must have left questions to be asked at half time about just who was supposed to be marking who.



Ipswich's Hamilton gives a triumphant wave after scoring against Luton

Luton had the chance to do something when a through pass by Husband was handled by Beattie. Shanks banged a high free kick into the Ipswich goalmouth, but Sivell was too agile for Luton and caught the ball easily — despite pressure.

Ipswich went further ahead, most deservedly, after 29 minutes. After Luton had hung back shouting for a handling offence following an effort by Alston, the Blues broke quickly through the middle.

Lambert pushed a super pass out to Woods on the left wing and he just about turned Ryan inside out before swinging over a peach of a centre which Hamilton jump-

ed for to head crisply past Barber.

Whatever Luton tried to do seemed to be without either luck or ideas. Anderson, Husband and Shanks all tried to make inroads into the Ipswich defence, but everything came to grief.

Luton gave the ball away far too easily and one culprit was Anderson for whom things were not going right in midfield.

Hindson struggled to put things right there, but after he had fought hard for a difficult ball, Thomson took a pass and banged the ball straight at Sivell with nobody else in contention.

In the 42nd minute a long free kick by West was fumbled under pressure by Sivell and Butlin was unlucky to see his effort nudged past the post as he charged in to finish it off. But somehow Ipswich did not seem to have a lot of trouble clearing corners.

THE DUCKWORTH MATCH VERDICT

IF only Luton could have played for 90 minutes like they did for the best part of half an hour in the second half, they would not have crashed to such an undignified defeat on their home soil this afternoon.

In the first half they were demoralised, nay mesmerised, by the slick flowing football of the lads from Suffolk who look as if they are going to do all sorts of things for English football this winter.

By half time Luton were two goals down and it looked obvious that they were in for a tousing.

Then Talbot made it 3-0 following a rather harsh penalty decision against John Ryan and Luton's cause was lost.

But with the crowd behind them they fought their way back into the game and Alston headed a splendid goal from a Shanks cross. But 11 minutes from the end Whymark scored a fourth and Luton's bolt was shot.

To be honest, Luton were not as good, as bright, or as well organised as this Ipswich side that served up the sort of football it is a treat to watch.

In the 50th minute Beattie got his head to a Lambert left-wing corner and Barber did a marvellous job in hurling himself backwards to tip the ball over the bar. But again Luton found trouble in getting the ball away and Ipswich won three corners in quick succession.

There was no bite at all in the Luton attack and when they did make a break West tried another long range effort which didn't please the crowd.

In the 54th minute Ipswich substitute Gates went on for Lambert who had an old injury return.

After Thomson had won a corner for Luton, Anderson had a headed attempt nudged over the top by Hunter and from the second corner a positive shot by Alston was caught on the line by the diving Sivell.

In the 58th minute Ipswich were awarded a penalty when Ryan headed Gates off his second

MATCH DETAILS
Luton Dunstable and District
Charities
GALA NIGHT AT
CESARS PALACE
Cabaret
Wednesday, November 27
959115 and 275533
CHILDREN LOVE Rex Cooper
Entertainment Phone Luton

MECCA SOCIAL CLUB
THE QUADRANT, DUNSTABLE
Presenting on
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 15
TOMMY HUNT

CLARKE BROS
LINSLEY and LINSLEY
Bury 3891, Leighton Buzzard 7116
FIBREGLASS
DOUBLE GLAZING
For
Call your friends
A son into
s' un-
ader
called
diving
leaped
die to nod
kick by