

CARLISLE CRASH AS LUTON CASH IN

74/75

LUTON TOWN 3, CARLISLE UNITED 1. (Half-time—1-1.)

Scorers:—Luton Town—Anderson (12 min.), Alston (56), Jim Ryan (pen. 78); Carlisle United—Laidlaw (37).

LUTON'S first win of the campaign turned into a nightmare match of Carlisle, who must still have been reflecting on last season's 6-1 drubbing they received at Kenilworth Road, when both sides were Second Division promotion fighters.

In the early stages, United play cool and classy football, and up to half-time there seemed every chance of a Cumbrian victory.

But a shrewd tactical change by the home side gave them a pronounced edge during the second period, when the Carlisle defence was often badly exposed.

Luton's first goal came from Anderson after Alston had caught the visiting defence standing. Anderson dribbled through and coolly picked his spot as Ross came out.

Carlisle were responsible for the best first-half moves and they always looked likely to snatch an equaliser.

It came in the 37th minute when Hugh McIlmoyle nodded down a left wing cross from Balderstone. Although standing with his back to the Luton goal, Laidlaw netted with a magnificent overhead shot.

Laidlaw nearly put United ahead on the stroke of half-time when he chased a long clearance from defence. Luton wrongly anticipated offside, and goalkeeper Barber had to race right out of his area to clear the danger.

Luton began to apply some heavy pressure from the restart, and after Carr had sliced a clearance straight to Alston on the edge of the box, the gangling forward wriggled past a host of defenders before pushing the ball home.

The Carlisle defence crumbled again when Parker handed another fierce Husband shot. Jim Ryan beat Ross easily from the penalty spot.