

UNITED LACK THAT FINAL PUNCH

VERDICT

LUTON TOWN 3, CARLISLE UNITED 1

74/75

The Kenilworth Road jinx hit Carlisle again today. Last season Luton hit six past Allan Ross, and this afternoon a Carlisle team with only five goals against in ten matches, let in three more.

By BOB McLEAN



Olga says: "Hatters hat-trick stung unlucky United".

ance, to allow Laidlaw in, but the fullback rushed in to scramble the ball away.

It was all Carlisle at this stage and it looked as if a goal must come and come it did — but com-

Luton Town striker, Barry Butlin (24), signed this afternoon for Second Division Nottingham Forest for a fee of £120,000.

Butlin, the former Derby player, cost £50,000 when he moved to Luton two seasons ago.

Before the kick off at this afternoon's home game against Sunderland, Forest manager, Alan Brown, also paid £10,000 for the Barnsley defender, Paddy Greenwood.

pletely against the run of play.

Australian striker Alston flicked on John Ryan's pass to PETER ANDERSON who slipped the ball past Allan Ross from 12 yards.

That goal rocked Carlisle, who had been turning in such a confident performance, and they could justifiably feel unlucky to be a goal down after having so much of the play.

But the 12th minute goal acted as a spur to Luton and four minutes later Anderson again beat the entire Carlisle defence when he sent a pass to Alston who flicked his shot just wide.

But gradually Carlisle came back into the game and their quick tackling and persistence was un-

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SOCCER on TV

B.B.C. TONIGHT

Everton v Leeds, Southampton v Aston Villa (10.20).

ITV TOMORROW

BORDER

Sheffield United v Liverpool (2.10).

TYNE TEES

Tottenham v Middlesbrough (2.0).

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nerving the home defence.

In the 26th minute Peter Carr fired in a 25-yard drive which went just wide and two minutes later Train caused enough chaos in the Luton defence to confuse two defenders into giving away a senseless corner. From the kick McIlmoyle headed over.

A West chip created a chance for Peter Anderson who fired in a great header which was only narrowly over the bar and landed on top of the net, but nothing could have come of the incident for the flag was up to show that the Luton man was narrowly offside.

Then, in the 37th minute, a great three man move by Carlisle gave them the equaliser they deserved so much.

Balderstone took it from the left before sending over a tremendous cross which found the head of McIlmoyle, who, in turn, out-jumped the Luton defence to knock the ball down to the unmar-

THE TEAMS

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

Carlisle United: Ross; Carr, Gorman; O'Neill, Green, Parker; Martin, Train, McIlmoyle, Balderstone, Laidlaw. Sub.: Barry.

Referee: Mr J. Homewood, of Sunbury-on-Thames.

ked LAIDLAW, lurking on the edge of the six yard box, and the burly striker leapt spectacularly to hit in an overhead shot which beat keeper Barber all the way.

The goal gave a much fairer reflection to the run of play and indeed the home crowd rose to applaud the spectacular goal.

Two minutes after scoring, the burly striker was on the ground injured after he had accidentally been kicked in the face by centre half Faulkner. The game was stopped but after treatment Laidlaw recovered.

A minute later, Carlisle, breaking quickly from defence, could have added a second when a loose clearance by Faulkner gave Dennis Martin — having a very good game — a clear run from the half-way line.

But the United man finished weakly after allowing the home defence time to cover and his 20 yards shot flew weakly over the top — a poor finish to a situation which should have produced something.

On the stroke of half time a long clearance from defence found Laidlaw on his own just a few yards over the half way line.

As the Luton defenders screamed for off-side — and Laidlaw certainly looked to be in a suspicious position — the striker raced through and was only stopped by a sliding tackle by Barber who had raced out of his box to challenge.

And the whistle blew for half-time Luton forward Jimmy Ryan lay injured deep in the Carlisle half and it took a few minutes of treatment before the home man was able to join his colleagues in the dressing room.

Half Time:

LUTON1
CARLISLE1

A neat move by O'Neill, in which he beat three defenders, saw him make a great pass to McIlmoyle whose 20 yard chip shot swept narrowly over the top.

At the other end, West came close when he sent in a low 18 yard shot but Allan Ross was on the spot to hold the ball confidently.

In the 52nd minute Alston, racing in with Green, won the encounter before firing in a low 20

yard shot which went narrowly past.

Deft work by Anderson spelt danger for Carlisle, but he delayed when in a good position on the right of Carlisle's box and allowed O'Neill time to turn the ball past for a corner. But from the kick McIlmoyle rose above everybody to clear.

Then in the 56th minute Luton restored their lead.

The long legs of ALSTON had the visitors defence in all sorts of trouble and he managed to evade everybody to slip the ball past Ross.

The goal raised serious question marks about the marking in the Carlisle defence for at least two of the defenders should have cleared the situation long before the Luton man scored.

The second goal really put heart into a Luton team which had been disappointing from the kick-off. And, in the 60th minute, this new confidence was reflected in good work by Alan West when he controlled the ball well before sending in a 20 yard drive which Ross held well.

A minute later, there was a loud appeal for a penalty from the home men when Alston went sprawling in the box after he and Green went in for the ball, but referee Homewood waved away the claim.

At the other end Carr went close with a 25 yard shot which Barber held well.

In the 65th minute Carlisle almost capitalised on a poor clearance by keeper Barber. His goal kick was picked up on the half-way line by Ray Train who volleyed the ball and Luton were relieved to see his effort drop just inches over the bar.

In the 68th minute Alston was clear in the Carlisle box after a great through pass by West. The Australian World Cup star had beaten Carlisle defenders but his final shot was weak and safely gathered by Ross.

A minute later a great overlapping run by Carr could have brought the equaliser.

The full-back ran well down the right flank before putting over a top class cross which found the head of Martin, but his effort squirmed over the top.

A great move by Luton almost brought a goal in the 70th minute.

West neatly beat the Carlisle defence before sending a clever pass to Husband who kept the move going by hitting a neat ball to Hindson whose 15 yard shot was stopped only by the outstretched foot of Allan Ross.

At the other end, a good run by McIlmoyle caused a scare. Homing in from the left, he beat three defenders before sending in a low pass which was only stopped by a defenders foot and the ball spun narrowly wide for a corner.

In the 78th minute Carlisle unfortunately conceded a third goal — from the penalty spot. A harmless looking shot from Husband bounced up and struck the hand of Parker. Jim Ryan made no mistake from the spot kick when he sent the ball low to Ross's right.

It was all Luton now, and they came close two minutes later when centre-half Faulkner, coming up with his attack, sent in a stinging 30 yard drive which Ross held at the second attempt.

In the closing minutes Carlisle, certainly unlucky to be trailing 3-1, were coming more into the game again and after a defenders foot had blocked a Laidlaw shot in the 84th minute, Gorman came close with a 30 yard drive which went just wide.

The sight of their first victory gave the 12,987 crowd much to cheer although Luton were still looking below the form they showed to win promotion last year.



Adrian Alston's shot at the Carlisle goal is deflected by Carlisle defender Bill Green.