

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Barber; Shanks, John Ryan; Anderson, Litt, Garner; Hindson, Chambers, Alston, West, Husband. Sub: Jim Ryan.

MIDDLESBROUGH: Platt; Craggs, Spraggon; Souness, Boam, Madsen; Murdoch, Mills, Hickton (Willey, 78 mins), Foggon, Armstrong.

Referee: Mr Roy Capey (Stoke).

Goal: FOGGON (Middlesbrough) 16 mins.

Attendance: 10,464.

HARRY BLOWING WIND OF CHANGE

74/75

Luton Town 0 Middlesbrough 1

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

LUTON manager Harry Haslam must make changes for Saturday's trip to Manchester City. Last night the attack pussyfooted about against a rugged defence and the midfield men lost out to determination and skill from Jack Charlton's Northerners.

After the match Mr Haslam admitted that he would have to make some move to put things right and intimated that he would initiate at least one of the "kids" at Maine Road.

But he declined to outline his plans in spite of

pressure from myself and colleagues. "I am not going to say anything until I have told the people concerned," he said.

"It might sound a daft thing to say after losing at home, but I feel more confident now than I did this morning. After Saturday I was down in the dumps but tonight I at least saw some effort.

Failed

"Middlesbrough are a good side and they won the first half and had a goal to show for it.

"We were on top for most of the second half and I thought we were desperately unlucky. I couldn't have asked for more in the way of effort."

Right. But where are the goals going to come from? Jimmy Husband again looked sharp and willing but again he failed to score. Adrian Alston was a willing horse but well bridled, and Peter Anderson seems to have lost the equation that converts effort into goals.

Reading between the lines I would bet Malcolm Macdonald to Joe Soap that Luton bring in Ron Fletcher, the "cheap" portion of the £120,000 deal that brought the Chester twins, Ron and Paul, to Luton during the summer.

While Paul, rated at £100,000, has been training at Lillleshall with the England youth party, Ron has been cracking in endless goals for the reserves and earning himself a reputation as a tough, do-or-die striker.

Luton just also realise that they can't win without the ball. When they get it they give it away far too easily. And they lost too many 50-50 challenges too feebly.

Luton's man of the match was goalkeeper Keith Barber, who made fine saves to Hickton, Mills and Armstrong and created several attacks with his long and accurate throwing.

And the defence, so bad on Saturday, didn't play too badly. Litt slugged it out with gusto against Hickton, backs Shanks and John Ryan tackled strongly and fought hard, and Garner, returning after a long lay-off, covered well and cleared strongly.

The defence's problem was lack of direction when they released the ball.

Boro went ahead after 16 minutes when Foggon controlled a long pass and beat Barber with a fiercely dipping shot from the edge of the box. Luton's retaliation saw Hus-

band shoot over, Hindson have a shot blocked and John Ryan almost hit a corner flag with a first-time effort that screwed wide.

But Luton continued to give the ball away, even from free kicks. If an opening momentarily appeared there always seemed a Boro boot to block or baulk.

West is to be applauded for his second-half effort — and Hindson for his fight and enthusiasm throughout.

Chambers again showed bright moments and had the courage to lift his head and get stuck in again after seeing a brilliantly controlled volley hit a post in the 80th minute.

Three minutes earlier a Husband break had sent Anderson through but he ran too wide before shooting and Alston couldn't get to the deflection.

The clinging mud made things difficult for both sides and Boro had Souness and Craggs booked