



Alan Foggon, the Middlesbrough striker, just fails to add to his first goal after blasting the ball

SPIRITED LUTON FAIL AT HOME AGAIN

By COLIN MALAM

Luton 0, Middlesbrough 1 74/75

MIDDLESBROUGH, who led Luton out of the Second Division last season, gently pointed the Bedfordshire club back in that direction last night at a damp, misty Kenilworth Road.

Having taken an early lead, Middlesbrough frittered away any number of other first-half chances before inflicting a second home defeat in five days on their needy opponents.

Luton did stage a spirited second-half counter attack, but their was little really to suggest that last season's 15-point gap between the sides has been closed appreciably by First Division football.

Middlesbrough attacked with an imagination and precision which promise to keep them in the upper half of the table and which often confounded a poorly organised Luton defence.

Purposeful Foggon

Luton found it particularly difficult to pick up the elusive, purposeful Foggon. Casually stepping round Shanks, the Middlesbrough striker shot powerfully into the side netting after only two minutes.

Chambers missed an easier chance for Luton, and Armstrong dallied too long at the other end before Foggon again illuminated the match after 15 minutes.

Picking up a loose ball on the right he turned swiftly and ran along the edge of the penalty area before unleashing a shot that made the net billow behind Barber.

Husband volleyed just over the

bar and Craggs headed off the line from Hindson, but it was always Middlesbrough who looked the more dangerous in the first half.

Foggon, unmarked again, left Hickton with only Barber to beat, an opportunity he spurned, and Mills glanced a header only inches wide.

Husband gave notice of Luton's intentions in the second half by wriggling through to shoot past the angle, with Platt groping, and then diving to head Anderson's centre into the goalkeeper's arms.

Chambers was unlucky to see the ball rebound to Platt when he volleyed against a post, and Middlesbrough, who had Sourness and Craggs booked for fouls, substituted Willey for Hickton as they held out grimly until the end.

Luton.—Barber; Shanks, John Ryan, Anderson, Litt, Garner, Hindson, Chambers, Alston, West, Husband.

Middlesbrough.—Platt; Craggs, Spraggon, Sourness, Boam, Maddren, Murdoch, Mills, Hickton (Willey, 79 min.), Foggon, Armstrong.