

Tudor Ends That Bleak Spell

74/75

NEWCASTLE UNITED 1, LUTON TOWN 0. (Half-time—0-0.)

Scorer—Tudor (76 min.).

IT won't go down as John Tudor's best goal, but it's a safe bet he will never score a more welcome effort than the one he scored here.

Not only did it end Newcastle's run of five league games without a win, but at the same time saved a game which had opened brightly enough, only to deteriorate rapidly.

In the opening 25 minutes it was easy to understand why Luton are finding life difficult in the First Division. With just one win in 15 games, their defence was showing as many holes as a sieve.

With Cassidy striking the ball sweetly around from midfield and Malcolm Macdonald seemingly in the mood, it was all one-way traffic.

Only 60 seconds had elapsed in fact when this duo combined. Cassidy guided a superb ball through the middle and Supermac, racing forward, fired a left-foot shot over Barber only to see it come back off the bar.

The opener, however, looked only to be postponed. Wave after wave of black-and-white attacks hurtled towards the Luton goal. Amazingly, a goal just would not come. Kennedy hit a post and Barber did well to block efforts from Tudor and Barrowclough.

As if bemused and frustrated by their lack of reward, Newcastle suddenly began to lose rhythm. Luton came more into things and people were beginning to wonder just which outfit was propping up the division.

The goal itself was simple enough. A Barrowclough corner was flicked on by Macdonald, and Tudor had the easiest of jobs in stabbing it over the line.

Luton can perhaps feel a shade unlucky, and Newcastle will be far from happy with their performance.

After a magnificent start to the season they appear to have lost the flair which had them considered as possible championship contenders.

Crowd—30,141.

Newcastle United — McFaul; Nattrass, Clark, Cassidy, Keeley, Howard, Barrowclough, Kennedy, Macdonald, Tudor, Hibbitt.

Luton Town — Barber; Shanks, Thomson, Chambers, Litt, Garner, Hindson, Fern, Anderson, West, Aston.

Referee—R. Tinkler. Boston.