

CHELSEA DO IT — AFTER FRIGHT

74/75

CHELSEA notched their first victory since October 12 at the expense of bottom-of-the-table Luton. Although they ran out comfortable winners, they managed to give their long-suffering supporters numerous palpitations—especially in the first half. Nothing appears to go right for Luton these days but they cannot expect their fortunes to change when they fail to take gilt-edged chances.

They missed two in the first half which any schoolboy would have snapped up at a time when Chelsea were allowing them so much space at the back.

Steve Kember, Chelsea's outstanding player—in fact the best on the field—nearly gave the Londoners an early lead when his header from a free-kick hit the bar. Like Chelsea, Luton were very vulnerable at the back, and only their £100,000 signing from Chester, 17-year-old Paul Fitcher, had any constructive ideas.

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Then in the space of three minutes, the 22nd and 25th, Luton wasted two unbelievably easy opportunities to boost their morale.

Striker Adrian Alstone won a ball from David Hay and stroked a beautiful ball through the Chelsea defence to Peter Spiring.

Spiring went forward and with only John Phillips to beat, side-footed the ball wide.

The next chance was even easier. Peter Anderson burst

by DENIS COMPTON

Chelsea 2 Luton 0

through on the right, then pulled the ball back and past the Chelsea goalkeeper only to see Alston kick over the ball with a wide open goal in front of him.

Anderson played with splendid authority for Luton in mid-field but up front Spiring had a very poor game.

Chelsea went ahead five minutes after the interval. A bad goal-kick from Graham Horn found Chris Garland who dashed down the right and his cross was headed home by Ian Hutchinson.

Luton then exerted pressure for a time but seldom looked like scoring. There was one fantastic melee in the Chelsea goalmouth when there were so many players in the floor that it looked like an all-in wrestling match.

In the 76th minute Chelsea made it safe. A quick, long throw from Hutchinson found Kember, who stabbed the ball past Horn, and John Faulkner, racing back, could only help it into the net.

CHELSEA. — Phillips; Locke, Graham, Wilkins, Hay, Harris, Ray, Wilkins, Cooke, Kember, Garland, Hutchinson, Sissons. Sub: Houseman.

LUTON. — Horn; John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Fitcher, Jim Ryan, Alston, Spiring, West, Aston. Sub: Husband.