

TOSHACK BACK WITH A BANG!

Liverpool 2, Luton Town 0

JOHN TOSHACK returned to the Liverpool team against Luton Town at Anfield this afternoon, and brightened a drab scene with a goal immediately after the restart.

It was a major occasion for John Toshack, replacing the injured Kennedy, and trying to establish a claim for a regular first team place, and Phil Neal, taking over for the out-of-form Alec Lindsay.

Luton had Peter Spiring in attack, the lad they bought from Liverpool, a month ago, for £60,000.

Toshack, who had received a great reception from the Kop, soon earned fresh applause with a clever run before pushing through a good pass to Keegan. The move continued, with the ball going to Cormack, who was well tackled by Fletcher, the lad Luton bought last season from Chester, for £100,000.

Fletcher was marking Keegan — too closely on one occasion, and was spoken to by referee Burns.

From the free kick, Toshack was robbed of an early goal by a spectacular goal-line save from Horn. Neal moved up into attack and made a strong header which bounced off a Luton defender high in the air, and fell just right for Toshack to make a diving header. But Horn stopped the ball literally on the line.

After this escape, Luton launched their first raid. Spiring pushed the ball across to Husband, and with the Liverpool defence a little hesitant, Husband was presented with a good chance as Clemence came out. He should have done better than push the ball wide.

Liverpool were yards faster and more effective than this poor-looking Luton team. Keegan and Cormack combined brilliantly, with

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Keegan managing to turn and make a left foot centre which Toshack met with his head, but could not get sufficient force behind it.

Then Liverpool went into an inexplicable slump, during which they played with surprising lack of thrust. In defence, they made one or two mistakes, and Spiring, with a clever backheel flick, put the ball invitingly in front of Jimmy Ryan, whose shot was blocked by Cormack.

In the net

The Liverpool defence was badly at fault again, in letting Anderson bring the ball through in a long dribble. He interchanged passes with Spiring, and finally put the ball in the net but was fractionally offside.

Luton had taken heart from this lack-lustre period by Liverpool and were on attack after it had looked, in the early stages as though Liverpool were going to dominate. Keegan was trying hard to create something up front. On one occasion the ball rebounded off Faulkner and gave him a chance to push the ball through to Toshack, who was just offside.

Smith was forced to concede a corner, in face of a challenge by Aston. Jimmy Ryan took the kick and placed it well, but Clemence made a great catch under pressure from Faulkner.

Horn made a good save from a 25-yard shot by Callaghan and an even better one from his own full-back, John Ryan, whose back pass was badly placed.

Chance lost

Liverpool's best chance came after 20 minutes. Keegan turned the ball back from the line, and Heighway stretched out a foot and diverted the ball high over the bar. Had he left it alone, Toshack, standing behind him, was ready to nod it into the net.

Callaghan lifted the game from its slump with a neat

Line-up

LIVERPOOL: Clemence; Smith, Neal; Thompson. Cormack, Hughes; Keegan, McDermott, Heighway, Toshack, Callaghan. Sub., Boersma.

LUTON TOWN: Horn Ryan (John), Buckley Anderson, Faulkner Fletcher; Ryan (Jimmy), Husband, Spiring, West, Aston. Sub., King.

Referee: Mr. K. H. Burns, of Worcester.

bit of play down the left wing, but his centre was headed behind for a corner by Fletcher. Keegan took the flag kick, and Liverpool appealed for a penalty when McDermott went down, but the referee waved play on.

Luton broke away from the goal kick, and Jimmy Ryan tried a long-range shot, but sliced the ball wide. The crowd was groaning at some of the Liverpool passing mistakes, and against the team anchored to the bottom of the table, their display was unconvincing, after they had started so brightly.

There were only occasional flashes of individual brilliance to lighten this drab first half. One came from Cormack, who beat two men in a tight dribble before making an accurate centre which McDermott headed just wide.

Cormack was the liveliest midfielder player on the field. He dispossessed Anderson to try a good shot from 20 yards, but just sent the ball inches wide.

A good pass from Neal gave a shooting chance to Keegan, but he wasted it by pushing the ball across to McDermott.

Then Horn had to stretch to turn the ball over the bar from a good header by Toshack, off Callaghan's centre. Liverpool were dominating play towards the end of the first half, but it was not impressive and they were making mistakes completely out of character.

Half-time: Liverpool 0, Luton 0.

Liverpool, attacking the Kop goal in the second half, had the incentive of a **TOSHACK** goal a minute after the restart.

The crowd had been look-



TOSHACK ONE: John Toshack was soon involved in the action on his return to the team at Anfield to-day. Here he is involved in a goal-line scramble with goalkeeper Horn.

ing desperately for a revival after the dull first half, and Toshack's goal provided it.

It began with good work by Keegan on the left wing. His centre was back-headed across goal by McDermott, and Toshack slid the ball over the line from point blank range.

Luton came back with a spirited reply but lacking in real skill, and Clemence made a couple of good catches from right-wing corners. Clemence had to make his first "good" save from a hard-hit shot from West, the chance being made for him by a good run from Anderson, Luton's best player.

Then Heighway — he had had yet another indifferent match — made his first contribution of the game when he cut inside and hit a fierce right-foot shot which Horn knocked up in the air.

Toshack sent Heighway

racing down the left with a good pass, but when the ball was switched out to Keegan the opening was wasted, as Keegan delayed his centre. Liverpool just failed to make anything of a chance created by Callaghan, who brought the ball from right to left before making a centre which Horn failed to intercept.

Crowd restive

Then Husband made a magnificent diving header from 12 yards range, off a centre by Jimmy Ryan, with the ball just missing the upright. Liverpool were now playing as poorly as they had done in the first half. Luton were attacking with spirit and persistence, and the Liverpool crowd were very restive with their team's display.

'They'd, obviously, felt that Toshack's goal could have been the signal for an improvement, but it hadn't come, although Toshack and Keegan were working hard trying to create something effective.

Toshack, the most impressive Liverpool striker, almost worked a second goal with a clever dribble in the penalty area, after Keegan's persistence had won the ball off Jimmy Ryan and Anderson, who should have cleared.

Toshack laid the ball invitingly across goal, but it was Fletcher who was there to turn the ball away.

Liverpool were putting more pressure on, and looked like creating goal chances from time to time but invariably slipped up with the final move or pass.

From one Luton attack, Clemence raced out 10 yards to hold the ball from a centre by Jimmy Ryan. He had read the situation well, because there was danger to Liverpool, with the defence spreadeagled.

Luton should have made better use of Aston down

the left. The former Manchester United winger beat Smith several times but, strangely, was not given the ball as much as he should have been.

Horn made another good reflex save from Keegan's quickly-taken shot.

With eight minutes to go, Toshack should have made it absolutely certain for Liverpool, when he raced in from what looked at first like an offside position to shoot into the side netting.

With six minutes left, HEIGHWAY put Liverpool two in front, to clinch the win they so desperately needed after a run of eight games without a victory. It came after Horn had been drawn out of goal by a Toshack header and left stranded as Keegan drove the ball back into the goal-mouth. Horn managed to make a save as he was getting to his feet, but the ball bounced out to Heighway who had a simple job to put it into the net.

Attendance: 35,091.



TOSHACK TWO: Liverpool's Welsh international heads for goal but only succeeds in winning a corner.