

# Town's terrible twins steal show

Ipswich 0, Luton Town 1

**IDENTICAL** twins Ron and Paul Futcher got together for the first time in the First Division yesterday, and for Luton, this is going to be the start of something big.

Ron scored Luton's winner in the third minute of injury time, and Paul had another storming match in Luton's defence.

It was no good trying to interview Ron after the match, because it might have been Paul. They even change jackets just to baffle you. And they are so alike that even Luton secretary Bob Read-head doesn't know them apart — even on pay day.

These two 18-year-old lads are going to break every record in the book. Yesterday was just the start when they played together in the First Division for the first time.

## Determined

Ron's first appearance in the First Division is going to be somewhat brief. In the second half he tackled Kevin Beattie rather vigorously and collected his fourth booking of the season. He faces an automatic suspension, but he will be available tomorrow for the home match against Wolves.

This was just one incident that made the Ipswich fans forget the meaning of Christmas spirit. They didn't like it for instance when the ball ended in the Luton net with the help of John Ryan in the 77th minute, but was disallowed for hands by Johnson.

It all looked over when Jimmy Ryan won a corner after a last determined push

into the Ipswich half. John Aston slipped the ball to Husband. He centred and Ron Futcher leaped to flick the ball over the reach of Sivell into the goal.

The deathly hush that followed was broken only by the delighted whoops of the Luton players as they ran back to the centre. Referee Derek Nippard was "stoned" by a hail of cushions as he left the pitch seconds later.

Luton won this match — as

## BOTTOM SIX

|           |    |   |   |    |    |    |    |
|-----------|----|---|---|----|----|----|----|
| Chelsea   | 23 | 6 | 9 | 8  | 26 | 38 | 21 |
| Tottenham | 24 | 7 | 6 | 11 | 29 | 34 | 20 |
| Arsenal   | 23 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 27 | 29 | 19 |
| Carlisle  | 24 | 7 | 3 | 14 | 24 | 31 | 17 |
| Leicester | 23 | 5 | 6 | 12 | 22 | 35 | 16 |
| LUTON     | 23 | 3 | 7 | 13 | 19 | 35 | 13 |

they did against Derby last weekend — by sheer effort. They refused to accept defeat. Today they were counting the bruises over light training as they prepared for tomorrow. Two successive wins after six defeats has made it a truly festive occasion for Luton. They are actually beginning to believe in themselves again.

To be honest, it was not a good game. Luton made a world record number of back passes to their goalkeeper. There were 12 of them in the second half alone.

But there never seemed such a huge gap between the two sides as the League table suggested. Luton played good football from midfield, where Jimmy Ryan had another fine match. And in attack Aston was again in fine fettle.

It is going to take Ron Futcher time to find his First Division feet in terms of

pacing himself, but he never looked overawed by the situation. In fact I'd say he thoroughly enjoyed himself. He looks hard, skilful and clever in the air.

But Luton's best players were in defence. Brother Paul and John Faulkner were superb at the back, and John Ryan and Steve Buckley again tackled with gusto and used the ball well when they'd won it.

Horn played well in goal, always fast off his line to plunge among the feet, and strong in the high-ball situations.

## Better

The Luton attack was not able to get going in the first half, which was a bit boring. But as manager Harry Haslam said: "If we had let Ipswich play they'd have had us in the same situation as they had when they won 4-1 at Luton."

Even the announcer had to appeal for "plenty of noise, please," at half time. Luton began to play better, and Ron Futcher headed over a West cross, then West himself missed a chance from an Anderson through ball.

Johnson and Mills went close for Ipswich, and Horn made a good save to Why-mark.

In the 88th minute Husband was put clear and could not have avoided scoring — had the ref not pulled play back for a foul by Ipswich. It was an appalling decision and a glaring incident where "advantage" should have been played.

Watch out Wolves...

## MATCH DETAILS

**LUTON:** Horn; John Ryan, Buckley; Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Futcher; Jim Ryan, Husband, Ron Futcher, West, Aston. Sub: Fuccillo.

**IPSWICH:** Sivell; Burley, Mills; Talbot, Peddehty, Beattie; Osborne, Hamilton, Johnson, Why-mark, Lambert. Sub: Collard.

**REFEREE:** Mr Derek Nippard (Bournemouth).

**ATTENDANCE:** 23,413.

**GOAL:** Ron Futcher (90 mins).