

By JOHN PARSONS

RON FUTCHER, the 18-year-old striker signed as make-weight to prevent his £100,000 identical twin Paul becoming homesick, yesterday knocked Ipswich off the top of the First Division in his first senior match.

And Paul was among the first to offer congratulations after Ron's header in the second minute of injury time had floated over goalkeeper Laurie Sivell to produce the shock of the day.

But Ron could soon be out of bottom club Luton's survival fight. He collected his fourth booking of the season—including reserve team matches—and now faces a two-week ban.

Makeweight Ron knocks Ipswich off the top

Ipswich Town

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Luton Town

It was Ipswich's first home defeat of the season and Luton's first away win. And the goal came long after Luton had already happily settled for a point.

The Futchers are so alike that even Luton officials and players cannot always tell them apart. Paul—a powerful defender whom manager Harry Haslam insists 'will be as good as Ipswich's Kevin Beattie,' was the player Luton really wanted and they bought him from Chester in the summer.

But within a couple of weeks it was clear that Paul was missing Ron so Luton added another £20,000 to the deal to bring the other twin to Kenilworth Road.

In a handful of matches, Paul has already added an entirely new confidence, aggression and style to what was one of the First Division's most brittle defences.

Now Ron, after only fleeting appearances as substitute earlier, has scored the goal which could be the turning point in Luton's fight to stay in the First Division.

Ipswich, on the day, were dreadful—and Luton's skilfully employed off-side and other defensive tactics were only partly to blame.

'Our forwards didn't play well,' conceded Ipswich manager Bobby Robson. 'We missed the passing of injured Colin Viljoen.'

Viljoen is still doubtful for tomorrow's game at Birmingham when Ipswich will again be without centre-half Allan Hunter and possibly Beattie, who damaged an ankle.

With 12 minutes to go Ipswich claimed a goal when John Ryan sliced the ball into his own net but the referee Derek Nippard disallowed it, ruling that David Johnson had handled Mick Lambert's centre.

At the end the referee and his linesmen were given a police escort from the pitch.

Referee: D. Nippard 5
Entertainment: 5-5