

HORN'S ERROR PROVES COSTLY

Luton Town 1, Chelsea 1

By ROGER DUCKWORTH

THERE were a lot of dark, scowling faces at Kenilworth Road on Saturday night. There was anger at the way Chelsea had been allowed to pull back to steal a point

after Luton had had them on the run for the best part of the game.

But in the players' bar there was one big, wide grin hovering over a light ale. It belonged to Jimmy Husband who scored Luton's goal. It was his first of the season. His previous one was in a

summer friendly just behind the beach at Dunkirk.

"I can hardly believe it," he said. "It's a terrible thing when you are a striker and you go week after week without scoring goals.

"If you play in midfield and don't get a goal it's not so bad. You can say to yourself: 'Well, I did my bit. I contributed towards the game.'

"But when you are a striker you are expected to score. That's what you're there for. People are bound to start asking questions.

"It came so quickly I can't even remember the build-up. I just remember Ronnie Futchter putting it across and me whacking it in." So spake the happiest man in town.

But why did Luton lose the other essential point? It was sheer, suicidal carelessness in the goalmouth. Charlie Cooke banged over a rare corner, Graham Horn stayed on his line when he should have gone for it, Hutchinson headed it

from the six yard line and Kember forced it over the line.

Keith Barber, Luton's other senior keeper, is currently injured but, if he is fit, he will be considered for Saturday's game at Burnley.

Horn played in this afternoon's Midweek League game against Watford. But this was only because Mr Haslam had no other keeper available.

It was unbelievable. Luton had played so well; put in so much effort. It was criminal to throw it away in this fashion. Had they beaten Chelsea, Luton would have been off the bottom on points rather than on a fraction of a goal as they are at present.

Luton were motivated from defence by man of the match John Ryan. I have never seen him play better. Going forward he was strong, fast and direct. In defence he was rugged.

With Paul Futchter having another fine game, and with John Faulkner doing a marvellous job on the big

Hutchinson, who he beat in the air for most of the afternoon, Luton looked quite comfortable.

Steve Buckley had another good match, and he has the best left foot since Malcolm Macdonald, which he uses to drive the ball forward with great accuracy.

In midfield Luton lost the ball quite a lot, and Anderson was sometimes over-eager and ran into trouble by taking the ball past one man too many.

But West again played well, looking every bit as good as Chelsea's Hollins, who is one of the most admirable players.

Ron Futchter led the attack with confidence, and went close with a couple of shots. Centre-half Dempsey, a tall gentleman who looks as if he's wearing a Max Wall wig, had to vacate the field with an injury after half-an-hour, and he was replaced by Peter Houseman.

John Aston, still one of the best pure left wingers in the game, had a superb match. He seems to be able to swing the ball across from impossible situations, and he shields it so well under pressure.

Luton have now taken seven points from the last eight available. As manager Harry Haslam points out — if Liverpool had done that, they'd be top of the league today.

Luton's revival continues, and it is grand to see the way the fans have backed them.

They roared them on again on Saturday, and the only black spot of the afternoon was a mini-invasion of the pitch by a bunch of loutish children,

Luton must continue to thump their way out of trouble. They have shown they can do it. It's a pity they face two away matches — at Burnley and Sheffield United — before their next home match against Newcastle.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON: Horn, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Futchter, Jim Ryan, Husband, Ronnie Futchter, West, Aston. Sub: Alston.

CHELSEA: Phillips, Locke, Harris, Hollins, Dempsey, Hay, Kember, Wilkins, Garland, Hutchinson, Cooke. Sub: Houseman.

Ref: Mr John Hunting (Leicester).

Husband 63

Kember 82

Attendance: 23,096