

Futcher Looks Brighter, Luton!

74/75

LUTON TOWN 1, NEWCASTLE UN. 0. (Half-time—0-0.)

Scorer—Ron Futcher (56 min.).

NEWCASTLE UNITED'S Malcolm Macdonald returned to Kennilworth Road for the first time since his transfer four years ago. It was not a happy return. He wore Luton centre-half John Faulkner like a second shirt and had to watch as Ron Futcher banged in the only goal.

And Ron's identical twin brother Paul helped confine the Newcastle attack so well that Luton could have won far more easily.

Luton belied their bottom of the League position with some thrilling, attacking football, sparked off from midfield by man of the match Alan West.

Newcastle could not match the sustained enthusiasm of Luton, who have taken 10 points from their last seven league matches. The Magpies went close three times in the early stages, but their finishing was not nearly as good as their build-up.

Struggling Luton gave the Northerners a rough ride in the first half. After some early fire from Macdonald, the relegation-threatened side took control and three times Jimmy Husband went close.

Macdonald was given little space by the rugged Faulkner who said before the match he fancied his chances of containing the England striker.

Burns and Barrowclough provided some clever ground work for Newcastle, but Luton were strong in defence and imaginative in midfield where West and Anderson were outstanding.

The last time Burns played against Luton he scored a second-half hat-trick—for Blackpool. Yesterday he found it harder going on a pitch that resembled the beach at the Lancashire holiday town.

Crowd—18,019.

Luton—Horn; John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Hall, P. Futcher, Jim Ryan, Husband, R. Futcher, West, Aston.

Newcastle United—McFaul; D. Craig, Kennedy, Smith, Keeley, Clark, Barrowclough, Nulty, Macdonald, Burns, T. Craig.

Referee—R. Perkin, Stafford.