

# LUTON, YOU THREW

Everton 3 Luton 1  
By LAWRIE MORRISON

IF Luton still intend to be a First Division side at the end of the season, they are going to have to curb their charitable disposition.

They handed a lion's share of charity at Goodison Park last night, and it meant Everton didn't have to do anything special to win the two points which took them to the top of the table.

Luton's goodwill gesture to the Merseysiders took the shape of two gift goals in the opening 26 minutes.

# THIS ONE AWAY

And when you're struggling to get away from the relegation zone, that's two too many.

## Unfortunate

Luton skipper Alan West said afterwards: "You can't afford to give any side a two-goal start and expect to beat them. When it's Everton, it's just suicidal."

The unfortunate Luton player at the centre of Luton's

demise was goalkeeper Graham Horn. He blundered twice early on and they cost his side goals.

That's the cross you have to bear as a keeper. Errors out on the field rarely have such a ring of finality about them.

Luton manager Harry Haslam said: "You've got to give the lad credit of admitting he was at fault with both goals. He didn't try to shirk responsibility.

"Of course, once those goals went in we were really up against it. You don't need to do teams like Everton any favours."

Luton hadn't looked in any trouble until they presented Everton with their first goal after a quarter of an hour.

The Blues won a corner on the left and George Telfer was left completely unchallenged to head in Gary Jones's kick from well inside the six-yard box.

Though Horn should have come for it, his colleagues at the back must take some of the blame for giving Telfer a free header.

But the Luton keeper was the sole culprit for Everton's second goal 11 minutes later.

Mick Buckley, who had replaced the injured Telfer almost immediately after the first goal, flighted a free-kick into the goalmouth and Horn inexplicably dropped it right at Martin Dobson's feet. And the England international doesn't make a habit of missing from a couple of yards.

Luton had their moments in the first half. But they didn't make the most of some sloppy defensive work from full-

backs Mike Bernard and Steve Seargent.

It was just as well Roger Kenyon had such a commanding game in the middle of the Blues defence. He gave Ron Fletcher little chance to add to his growing reputation as a striker to fear in the First Division.

Everton sewed up the points six minutes into the second half. And again there was an element of charity in the goal from Luton.

## Bayed

Their offside trap fell apart at the seams, John Faulkner playing three Everton men onside as the rest of the Town defence pushed up.

Mick Lyons broke down the right, cut in and pulled the ball across the face of the goal for Bob Latchford to hook in.

The Goodison fans bayed for more goals. But the expected siege didn't come.

Luton gradually took command and were eventually rewarded in the 68th minute with a goal from John Aston, who had earlier been booked for a foul on Seargent. He rapped the ball in from an acute angle after good work by Paul Fletcher and Husband.

Had a screamer from Husband not flashed just the wrong side of the post a minute later, Luton might have been back in business. But although the goal acted as a kiss of life, the damage had already been done.

Everton, looking anything but title contenders, muddled their way to victory, and are today back on the top rung of the ladder, although one doubts for how long on this form.

Luton's defeat — only the second in their last nine league matches — saw them slip below Leicester in the table by one hundredth of a goal.

Only Carlisle, also beaten last night, keep them from the bottom spot.

But manager Haslam still managed to put on a brave face after the match. "We've still got a lot to do," he said. "But I still think we can pull ourselves out of it. There's a long way to go yet."

## MATCH DETAILS

**EVERTON:** Davies; Bernard, Seargent, Clements, Kenyon, Hurst, Jones, Dobson, Lyons, Latchford, Telfer (Buckley).

**LUTON:** Horn, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Fletcher, Jim Ryan, Husband, Ron Fletcher, West, Aston. Sub: King.

Referee: Tony Morrissey (Bramhall).

Attendance: 35,714.

**GOALS:** Telfer (Everton) 15 mins, Dobson (Everton) 26, Latchford (Everton) 51, Aston (Luton) 68.