

Sky Blues wing to victory in mud

Luton 1, Coventry 3

74/75

COVENTRY scored a workmanlike victory in the rain and mud at Luton and sent the home side slithering back towards the Second Division, which they left only last season.

The win was thoroughly deserved, and in the first half Coventry were so much in command that goalkeeper Neil Ramsbottom did not have a shot to save.

It was all Coventry as they swept into a two-goal lead within the first 25 minutes.

Brian Alderson scored both with low, right-footed drives into the corner of the net. He opened the scoring with a brilliant goal in the ninth minute and added his second in the 25th when Les Cartwright opened up the floundering Luton defence.

Coventry could have had more goals before half-time as they made good use of the drier areas down the wing and adopted a policy of shooting on sight.

Mick Ferguson, who had one "goal" disallowed for offside, was superb in the air and goalkeeper Horne had to pull out desperate saves from Alderson, Willie Carr and Tommy Hutchison.

Luton found the will to fight back in the second half and it was the turn of Coventry to defend desperately.

They survived appeals for a penalty when Carr tugged Ron Futchter by his shirt as the Luton forward broke clear, but referee Harold Davey turned them down.

Coventry's lead began to look precarious when John Aston punished some slack work by Graham Oakey to go through and reduce Luton's arrears in the 55th minute.

But with Ramsbottom pulling off some fine saves and Carr regaining his mastery in midfield Coventry survived the Luton pressure.

Fine goal

Their third goal by Allan Green in the 78th minute finally killed off Luton's hopes.

Chasing onto a long kick upfield by Craven, he avoided a challenge by Steve Buckley and dribbled round goalkeeper Horn before completing a fine individual goal.

It put the seal on Coventry's third away win of the season and completed a fine performance.

Despite the quagmire conditions they were always well ahead of Luton for footballing skills and the will to win.

LUTON TOWN: Horn; Ryan (John), Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Futchter (P), Ryan (Jim), Alston, Futchter (Ron), West, Aston, Sub: Hostand.
COVENTRY CITY: Ramsbottom; Oakey, Cattlin, Cartwright, Craven, Dugdale, Carr, Alderson, Ferguson, Green, Hutchison. Sub: Holmes.