

# LUTON FIGHTING TO THE FINISH

## MATCH DETAILS

Luton Town: Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Litt, Jimmy Ryan, Husband, Alston, West, Aston. Sub: Spiring. Leicester City: Wallington, Whitworth, Rofe, Lee, Blockley, Cross (Earle 61 mins), Weller, Sammels, Worthington, Birchenall, Garland.

Referee: Mr John Williams (Wrexham).

Attendance: 18,298.

Goals: ALSTON (Luton) 22mins. WELLER (og Luton) 36mins. HUSBAND (Luton) 78mins.

AN "IF" the size of a New York neon still flickers questioningly over Kenilworth Road. Escape from relegation, admitted remote, is still a sliderule possibility.

This was their biggest and one of their best wins of the season, and I reiterate what I said in Sportspost on Saturday night — this side is too good to be tossed like jetsam into Division Two.

And their fans, few but noisy, deserve more than one season among the elite.

But let's keep hope in our hearts. Look at it this way, if Tottenham and Chelsea who meet in mortal conflict at White Hart Lane ext week, draw 0-0, and Luton win at Birmingham, Luton will go fourth from bottom. The position would then look like this:

|                | Pts          |
|----------------|--------------|
| Luton .....    | 41 32        |
| Chelsea .....  | 40 32        |
| Spurs .....    | 40 31        |
| Carlisle ..... | Already down |

And if Luton win their last home match of the season — against Manchester City — Chelsea would need three points from their last two matches. The mind boggles.

Luton's attack was again led with verve and enthusiasm by the fast and skilful Adrian Alston. I hope Luton take no notice of an approach reported to have been made for him by Peterborough. He is a good player, and will be a very good one.

## Power

He scored the first goal, frightened Keith Weller into scoring the second for him, and laid on the third for Jimmy Husband after goalkeeper Wallington had not been able to deal with the power of one of his shots.

Harry Haslam pulled a smart move in sending

secretary Bob Readhead to Australia to collect this Lancashire lad, who played for the Aussies in the World Cup. He cost only £12,000.

And John Aston, who has had a wonderful season, gave another of his scintillating performances. Up against one of the best right-backs in the country in Steve Whitworth, he soon established who was boss man.

## Character

He and Alan West make a grand left-wing partnership. The flair and skill of both are of a high order.

Peter Anderson also had a good game, carving Leicester up in midfield with the help of Jimmy Ryan.

Leicester manager Jimmy Bloomfield admitted: "Luton were the better side and fully deserved to win. They played well at our place too, but only drew."

All this makes those "ifs" so annoying. If Luton hadn't

By ROGER DUCKWORTH  
Luton Town 3, Leicester 0

thrown away Easter; if Luton had collected only a couple more points early on; if they hadn't had all those injuries.

It goes on and on. I just don't know where the players pull their spirit from, having been down among the dead men all season. There's some character in the side all right.

Steve Litt, playing in place of the suspended Paul Fletcher, gave another rollicking performance, looking fast, strong and purposeful. He complemented John Faulkner who also did well, forcing England's Worthington to play about on the wings.

Both backs, John Ryan and Buckley, stood for no nonsense, and with the agile Barber handling superbly in goal.

Luton's first goal was a memorable one. Barber found West with one of his long, accurate throws, West sped down the left and put over a perfect cross which the speedy Alston caught up with, and

Weller's  
incredible  
own-goal  
— pictures  
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headed firmly past Wallington.

It was one of those goals from a kids' annual. The second one was also quite startling . . . in a different way.

Weller had the ball on Luton's left wing. He saw the rangy Alston coming in to challenge, and whacked the ball towards his own keeper. The pass beat Wallington and described an arc into the corner of the goal.

From then on Weller had to suffer the ignominy of cheers from the Luton crowd every time he touched the ball. He took it well.

Luton wrapped it up in the 78th minute when Alston raced through on his own, had a shot blocked by the Leicester keeper, followed it with another which was also parried, and Husband finished it off.