

LUTON FIGHT ON WITH 3 GOALS

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON: Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Litt, Jim Ryan, Husband, Alston, West, Aston. Sub: Spiring.

LEICESTER: Wallington, Whitworth, Rofe, Lee, Blockley, Cross, Weller, Sammels, Worthington, Birchenall, Garland. Sub: Earle.

REFEREE: Mr J. Williams (Wrexham).

GOALS:
Alston (Luton 22 mins)
Weller (og) (Luton) 36 mins

Husband (Luton) 78th minute

ATTENDANCE: 18,298.

LUTON may look doomed to relegation, but they haven't given up the fight. They chalked up another fine home win today, beating Leicester City 3-0.

Australian World Cup star Adrian Alston hit the first goal, the second was a strange own goal by Leicester's Keith Weller, and the third came from Husband.

Luton took all the honours in the first half, and although Leicester piled on the pressure after the break, the Town's defence held out well against a forward line that has scored a lot of goals in recent games.

After their tremendous 2-1 win over Everton in midweek, Luton were unchanged today.

They were still without the Futchers twins, both of whom are serving suspensions, and "Aussie" Alston continued at centre-forward, where he did so well against Everton.

There was also another game for big Steve Litt, who looked a very good player in midweek once he had shaken off his early uncertainty.

Leicester were unchanged too. England centre-forward Frank Worthington was there and so was his England colleague Steve Whitworth.

Clever

Once again this bad Luton pitch was heavily sanded.

Luton went straight into the attack. Good runs on the left by Aston and West gave them a good start and then a neat through-ball by John Ryan could have brought them a goal if a clever one-two between Husband and Anderson had come off.

But it didn't last. A long kick into the Luton goalmouth by Whitworth saw everybody duck out of its way, and Barber was called to dive sharply to his right to catch the ball at the last minute.

Then Barber got one hand to a corner from Leicester

skipper Sammels, and he did supremely well to dive on to the ball and catch it.

Luton swept back and Jimmy Ryan was a bit unlucky when his cleverly-chipped shot from outside the box failed to beat Wallington, who was well positioned.

Appeals

In the seventh minute, Aston skinned Whitworth alive with the most beautiful piece of control and went past the England full-back as if he wasn't there. But his cross was cut out by Cross and Luton's chance was gone.

The Luton attack continued to shine and terrific shots from Husband and Anderson were blocked in the box. Luton's appeals for hand ball were ignored.

There was no look of relegation about Luton as Alston charged down an attempted clearance and raced away on his own. Again the luck escaped Luton and his centre was cut out.

After hand-ball by Litt, Leicester were given a free-kick some ten yards outside the box. Weller pushed it to Birchenall, who was yards wide with his shot.

Anderson was fouled by Worthington as he tried to cut in from the corner flag. The

Luton 3 Leicester 0 By ROGER DUCKWORTH

England striker was far too close when he blocked Jim Ryan's free kick, but he got away with it.

After 22 minutes, Luton went ahead with one of their most picturesque goals of the season. It all began with a superb throw from Barber, which sent West steaming down Luton's left wing. He outstripped Weller and banged across a perfect centre which ALSTON, who was backing up beautifully, headed first time past Wallington.

Chant

But the ball went out to Weller, and he scored the most incredible own goal I have ever seen, beating his own goalkeeper with a back pass from outside the box.

The Oak Road choir were quick to take up the chant: "Nice one Weller, let's have another one."

Husband might well have been given a free kick near the Leicester goalpost for obstruction by Whitworth as he tried to keep a through ball in play. But it was ignored. Had this incident happened in the middle of the field, I am sure the referee would have given Luton a free kick.

When Leicester were given a free kick just outside the Luton box, the chant went up, quite good-humouredly: "Give it to Weller, give it to Weller." In fact, Worthington curled the free kick and Alston cleared.

HT: 2-0

Weller, had to take a lot of stick from the crowd because of his own goal, startled the Luton defence with a long throw into the goalmouth which Faulkner was happy to head behind for a corner. It came to nothing.

Then Worthington looked yards offside when he chased a through ball but he was given the benefit of the doubt — but Barber was out quickly to save at his feet.

Unlucky

Worthington was a bit unlucky with the bounce of a long ball and his shot lacked power, leaving Barber the simple task of stopping it.

Weller tried to make amends for his error with a shot, but collided with Buckley. But Leicester got a corner out of it and began to put on some more pressure.

Goalkeeper Barber was badly fouled by Garland after he had done well to catch a curling cross from Rofe. The referee had a word with the Leicester forward. Meanwhile, Steve Earle was trotting about on the touchline in preparation to come on.

In the 60th minute, Earle went on for Cross after it had looked as if Birchenall was going to the dug-out.

In the 65th minute, the Luton goal had a close shave when Lee headed a Birchenall corner just wide of the top right-hand corner.

At the other end, Husband failed to control a cross from Alston on the right. He was over-enthusiastic as he followed up and collided with goalkeeper Wallington who needed attention.

Then Barber caught a fierce left-footer from Worthington under the crossbar. At this stage, the game needed a few shots as it appeared to be going to sleep.

One of the best passes of the match came from Jimmy Ryan, who put Aston through the middle, but the winger shot wide.

JIMMY HUSBAND scored his second goal of the season when he knocked a fierce attempt by the popular Alston over the line in the 78th minute.



LUTON cruised to their fourth successive home win as they clung to their faint hopes of escaping relegation against Leicester this afternoon. And to their credit, they never allowed fear to enter their game.

They went ahead in the 22nd minute with one of the sweetest goals this season from the head of Adrian Alston. Skipper West provided the cross.

It is so sad that they did not collect a couple more points earlier in the season, for this Luton side is certainly too good to drop straight back into Division Two.

Their second goal was the daftest own goal of all time. A back pass from Weller from about 20-yards beat his own 'keeper and riddled into the net.

Attractive

Luton had to wait until 12 minutes from the end before finally sewing it up. Alston, who had another good game, beat the off-side trap and raced at the Leicester goal. Although he kept his head, Wallington saved his shot. Alston got in another which was only blocked, and Husband scored a deserved goal.

I thought Barber played well in goal positioning himself particularly well against the Leicester shooting.

Luton played some more attractive football, carrying on from where they left off against Everton during the week.