

CITY CRASH AT LUTON AND NOT OUT OF WOOD YET



Australian World Cup player, **ADRIAN ALSTON**, who headed Luton into an early lead against Leicester City at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

AN UNFORTUNATE own goal by Keith Weller gave Luton a two goal lead in the first half of the relegation battle against Leicester City at Kenilworth Road today, and the home side never looked like losing it. Alston opened their scoring and Husband completed it.

City kicked off, but Luton mounted the first real attack and Blockley had to do a power of work to clear the danger. Then, a long ball from Weller nearly slipped past Barber, when everyone let it go.

In the next raid, Litt gave away a corner which Barber saved at the second attempt, with Blockley and Garland waiting for a slip-up.

At the other end, Jim Ryan ended a fine run with a chip shot, but Wallington was right

LUTON - - - 3

ALSTON 22 mins.
WELLER (own goal) 36 mins.
HUSBAND 76 mins.

CITY - - - - 0

Official attendance: 18,298.

on the spot to save easily. City didn't take long to reply.

Weller and Whitworth combined in a move on the right. Garland raced through the middle, but Weller's cross went wide.

Garland did have a header on target later, after Worthington had done the spade work, but the City man was ruled to have fouled his opponent.

Narrow escapes

The City goal then had a series of narrow escapes. Jim Ryan and Husband had shots blocked, and then Blockley blundered to let Alston clear.

The Luton striker was unsupported, and the opening was

by Bill Anderson

lost when Cross conceded a corner which came to nothing. The home side were troubling City quite a lot at this point.

A bad pass from Faulkner went straight to Garland, who started another City raid. The City striker then beat three men in a long run, and tested Barber with a fine shot.

Next to show was Worthington. The big fellow fired in a strong shot which Barber did well to hold.

A disaster

In the 22nd minute Luton took the lead. West crossed from the left, and the ball eluded Cross to find the head of ALSTON, who netted from close in.

What a shock this was for City, but this opening goal was not against the run of play. Luton settled down, and went after another one.

Blockley and Cross were forced

to make timely clearances, as the Hatters piled on the pressure.

A Weller hanging cross which went just over the bar was all City could muster in reply.

Birchenall then gave away a free-kick in the middle of the park. This was let through by everyone, and Aston was just too slow to reach it.

Then, in the 36th minute disaster struck Leicester. Weller had played his part in foiling a Luton attack, and decided to chip a pass back to Wallington. It was a bit strong, however, and Wallington failed to stop it rolling into the far corner of the net.

Fight back

City fought back after this setback, and a cross from Sammels earned a corner which Barber punched over the top to give away another one.

Sammels drove the ball in, but it was headed clear with all the Leicester attack up around the goal area.

Luton still had the upper hand with Aston and Jimmy Ryan causing problems for the City defence. Whitworth did well to stop a promising run by Aston when danger threatened.

Garland then went through on a run down the centre of the

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VERDICT

THIS was the day when City were supposed to secure their First Division status, but it all went horribly wrong. It is easy to see, on this showing, just why Luton have been able to shock some of the top sides in the League.

The home side put in a tremendous amount of work, and their skilful play caused City problems throughout this match.

Play was ven up until the opening goal, but the own goal tragedy made City's uphill struggle too much to take on. The only crumb of comfort is that the other clubs in the relegation zone who pose a threat to City, were also beaten.

Wallington hurt in nasty clash

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park, and was just about to set himself up for a shot when he was fouled about 25 yards out.

Worthington's free kick was driven into the wall, and was cleared to ease the pressure.

Brisk restart

Straight away Aston won a corner on the left on the stroke of half time, but as soon as the ball was taken, the whistle went for the break.

Halftime: Luton Town 2, Leicester City 0.

Luton restarted, but not surprisingly City stormed into the attack looking for a quick goal to boost their chances. In the first couple of attacks, Worthington and Garland were given offside.

Lee then tipped a header through to Worthington, but Barber won the race for the ball, and saved at the feet of the City man.

Then a long ball from Blockley gave Worthington another chance, but the centre's shot was mishit straight to Barber. Lee nearly did the trick later, when he got a touch to a Sammels' cross, but the ball went wide.

The Melton lad was hurt during this incident, but resumed after treatment. Garland was again caught offside as City pressed forward.

Substitute on

Luton came back, and Rofe and Cross did well to stop a raid from Husband. Then West sent the ball over for Wallington to save low down.

Minutes later Aston troubled the City defence with a well taken corner, but as Wallington went up for it he was fouled, and the danger was cleared. After 60 minutes Steve Earle came on for Graham Cross.

Garland was harshly penalised when he rose to meet a Sammels cross. Luton then stormed back, and in one of their attacks Anderson was injured.

Earle forced a corner on the right, from which Lee nearly scored with a header that went just over the bar.

Manager Bloomfield had gambled all on attack by putting Earle on for Cross and City were doing their best to get back on terms, but Luton were always looking dangerous when they broke out of defence.

Wallington was injured in a nasty clash with Alston, and needed several minutes treatment before being fit to continue.

Worthington then put in a fine effort when he fired in a shot from a narrow angle which nearly caught out Barber.

Luton were by no means sit-

LUTON	LEICESTER
1. Barber	1. Wallington
2. Ryan(John)	2. Whitworth
3. Buckley	3. Rofe
4. Anderson	4. Lee
5. Faulkner	5. Blockley
6. Litt	6. Cross
7. Ryan(Jim)	7. Weller
8. Husband	8. Sammels
9. Alston	9. Worthington
10. West	10. Birchenall
11. Aston	11. Garland
12. Spiring	12. Earle

Referee: J. Williams (Wrexham).

ting on their lead. Aston carved a way through the middle before sending in a shot that didn't miss by much.

Birchenall then made the running for City when he beat three men in a midfield run, but his parting pass to Garland was just too strong.

At the other end Husband was unlucky not to score, when he flicked the ball first time towards the goal but Wallington saved it.



KEITH WELLER who had the misfortune to put through his own goal.