

Tueart's goal is so simple

By PETER GARDNER

DENNIS TUEART gave Manchester City a 14th-minute lead in the crucial First Division clash against a Luton side desperate for points at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Tueart pounced on a careless pass by former Manchester United winger Jimmy Ryan to side-foot a simple goal and dim even further Luton's chances of surviving relegation.

However, Town remained full of fight in a needle battle in which City did well to survive heavy punishment.

Several arrests were made before the start when fighting broke out and fans invaded the pitch.

Luton made a tremendous start in an electrically charged atmosphere.

Buckley drove the ball through to Alston and the Australian World Cup striker cut in from the left to test Corrigan with a powerful low shot.

Luton pushed forward again with Buckley getting the ball down the left and Aston, the former Manchester United player, winning a corner at the expense of Oakes.

Booth was penalised for obstructing Alston but Donachie, keeping pace with the oncoming Anderson, headed Jim Ryan's chipped free kick behind for yet another corner.

Aston crossed to the right to take it, but Booth cleared first time.

City, however, were swift on the break. Daniels neatly linked up with Bell from Hammond's clearance and when Tueart crossed dangerously the ball landed on the roof of the Luton net.

PUNCHED OUT

Hammond's foul on West gave Luton yet another chance to press forward eagerly. John Ryan crossed to the far post, Faulkner hooked the ball back into the middle and Anderson's header was palmed over the top by Corrigan, who then punched out Alston's inswinging corner.

But having survived that blitz City bounced back to silence the home crowd by snatching a 14th-minute lead.

TUEART pounced on to a bad pass by Jim Ryan, moved into the middle to round Faulkner and stroked the ball right-footed wide of the advancing Barber.

It was a goal that took a lot of the fire out of Luton and Buckley needlessly conceded a corner with another careless back pass aimed for his goalkeeper. Tueart's flag-kick aimed at the near post was met by Doyle, whose firm header was only inches over the bar.

Then, incredibly, Luton escaped yet again. When Marsh pulled the ball back from the right Daniels first made a hash of his effort when attempting a shot. But, given a second chance, Daniels hit in a superb drive that beat Barber but cannoned back into play off the underside of the crossbar.

HARD TIME

News that Arsenal were beating relegation rivals Tottenham at Highbury gave Luton new hope and encouragement, but City remained cool under the fresh pressure that the home side began to exert.

West continually tried to pick off Aston, who was giving Hammond a hard time.

And it was from an Aston right-footed cross that Luton almost got an equaliser.

Husband got up well to turn in a neat header, but Corrigan safely pushed the ball over the bar.

Then, in the 73rd minute, desperate Luton finally got their equaliser — but what a scrambled effort it was.

Jim RYAN crossed from the right when he spotted Corrigan caught off his line. As the ball dropped over the line King rushed in to add the finishing touch, but it was clearly Ryan's goal.

THE TEAMS

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

MANCHESTER CITY: Corrigan; Hammond, Donachie; Doyle, Booth Oakes; Hartford, Bell, Marsh, Daniels, Tueart. Sub: Keegan.

Referee: D Wallace, Crewe

Half-time: Luton Town 0, Manchester City 1.

Daniels was pulled up for offside as Tueart tried to weave his way through on the re-start.

Luton's attempts to get back into the game failed as Booth, Oakes and Hammond all cleared without fuss.

Bell also dropped back to rob Aston.

Hartford was limping after treatment following a clash with Faulkner as Luton tried to find their attacking spirit only to be let down by a series of misplaced passes.

West, working hard for the home side, did get in a cross that Oakes, as immaculate as ever, headed clear. When the Blues moved forward Doyle shot over from 30 yards out.

Both side, in fact, were guilty of scruffy play with Luton looking nervous.

Aston heightened home hopes when he cut in from the left to shoot first time only to see his rising shot go inches over the bar.

John Ryan should have done better when well placed on the right but carelessly crossed behind and the Blues stormed back with Bell feeding Daniels.

Daniels crossed from the right and Tueart took up the running on the opposite flank, but Bell lost out when John Ryan challenged.

Luton's frustration was summed up in the 61st minute when Alston was booked for dissent following something he said to referee Wallace.

Three minutes later Tueart also had his name taken for dissent — he kicked the ball away when disputing a Luton free-kick.

In fact the whole match was now degenerating into a scrappy, shambling affair with little good football from either side.

City tried to bring some semblance of order with Hartford cleverly pulling the ball round for Tueart, who aimed a diagonal shot that Daniels narrowly failed to reach as Faulkner challenged.

Then Hartford cleverly split the home side with a neat pass for Donachie, who quickly drove the ball forward to Daniels whose shot on the run went over the top.

City were all at sea, however, when Luton replied, but again the home side made a hopeless mess in front of goal.

Aston intelligently drew Hammond before finding Husband. But when the return pass came Aston completely missed the ball on the City six-yard line.

In the 68th minute Luton pulled off Litt, replacing him with King who was having his first taste of League football.

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