

RYAN GOAL GETS LUTON A WELCOME REPRIEVE

Made costly
misses, too

LUTON 1 MANCHESTER CITY 1

AFTER FALLING behind to a Dennis Tueart goal, Luton equalised through Jim Ryan and Tottenham's defeat at Arsenal keeps alive their hopes of staying in the First Division.

Scores of youngsters invaded the pitch before the start. Almost 100 of them tried to make their way from one goal to the other, but were turned back by police. Three were taken bodily from the ground. By the time the teams appeared, however, the pitch cleared.

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).

Luton started their bid for First Division survival at a furious pace. Within seconds they had forced a corner, but when Aston put over a curling kick, Anderson headed much too high.

Another 50-yard run by Aston looked dangerous, but again Anderson upset things by fouling Bell in the Manchester City penalty area.

In a sudden switch to the other end, Luton had a scare when goalkeeper Barber held the ball right on the goalline following a well struck free-kick by Oakes.

Manchester City, who had helped Derby to the League Championship with their mid-week draw against Ipswich, seriously threatened Luton's First Division safety with a soft goal after 13 minutes.

Jim Ryan, having lost his footing, made a dreadful hash

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Luton battle on

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of an attempted pass. The ball ran straight to TUEART, who easily drew Barber out before placing the ball in the net.

PLENTY OF SPACE

It was completely against the run of play, but Luton's committed policy of all-out attack almost cost them a second goal two minutes later when Daniels was given plenty of space, only to see his fierce shot rebound off the crossbar.

Luton took a back seat as Manchester City took control of midfield, with Colin Bell having an outstanding first half.

An isolated shot from Alston and a speculative header from Husband only remotely troubled Corrigan, but the news that Spurs were a goal down at Arsenal brought renewed cheers from the crowd and more effort from the home team.

Twice in quick succession Luton forced corners — the second following a brilliant save by Corrigan from an Alston header. But each time the danger was cleared.

MORE CORNERS

Luton went hard for the equaliser, but their only reward was two more corners both of which were aimed too close to the giant Corrigan.

A little more steadiness in front of goal might have brought better results, especially when West and Jim Ryan both wasted passes from Aston. Right on the stroke of half-time

Buckley struck a fierce free-kick straight at Corrigan.

Half-time:

LUTON 0
MAN. CITY 1

Luton began the second half without showing quite the same urgency and they ran into trouble when Marsh was fouled by Anderson 30 yards out.

The free-kick was eventually cleared, but Hartford set things going again with a smart header to Daniels. Then a brilliant pass from Bell sent the overlapping full-back Hammond scampering down the right.

Buckley again intervened and then Barber only just beat Marsh in a race for the ball on the edge of his penalty area.

With their First Division life slipping away, Luton once more mounted a desperate counter attack. In their enthusiasm they had two players spoken to by referee Wallace for petty infringements and the Alston was booked for dissent.

Aston should have got the vital equaliser, but having worked himself into a good position his final shot went just over the angle of post and crossbar.

Missed by three

After Tueart had been booked, the resulting free-kick to Luton was headed by Faulkner straight to Corrigan. Then Aston put over a low centre, but it was missed by three waiting Luton players.

Mick on mark

Mick McGuire gave Norwich the lead in their vital promotion match at Portsmouth.