

Chelsea hooligans fail to end game 30.8.75
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BIRCH THESE THUGS' ROARS THE REFEREE



KEITH BARBER
... struck on the head

HUNDREDS OF Chelsea fans fought running battles with police and stewards as they stormed on to the pitch to bring a violent climax five minutes before the end of this thrilling game. Referee Eric Read (Bristol) ushered the players to the safety of the tunnel as the game was held up for four minutes. Read said: "It wasn't a dirty game, but we had realised before the start there might be trouble."

When the first lad came on to the pitch, Micky Droy lifted him up and dumped him back over the barrier.

"I told Droy to keep the game going. I thought there was a chance the hooligans would retreat if we did," said the ref.

"But once the mob came on I had to suspend it. Eddie McCreadie said he would be happy to call it a day then and end the game early for our own safety, but I was not going to do that. However long it took to clear the pitch, I was determined we should complete the match.

"We have got to show these louts the game is bigger than they are. We would have kept going until midnight if necessary."

"I think the answer is birching or bringing back the cat—something like that."

Luton 'keeper Keith Barber squared up to one hooligan and was struck on the back of the head by another. A steward was helped semi-conscious from the pitch.

Pelted

Barber said later: "The Chelsea fans were throwing all kinds of things at me during the second half... a five inch lump of concrete, a metal bolt, and about £10 worth of 10p pieces. And all the time I was being spat at."

"These sort of hooligans must be given prison sentences with the sentence doubling up each time they are caught, and the clubs will have to build fences behind their goals."

Chelsea manager, McCreadie visited Barber after the match to apologise for the fans' behaviour.

The violence continued in the streets after the game. Bricks were thrown through shop windows and cars were overturned as the mob ran riot on their way back to the station.

The Chelsea supporters, segregated at one end of the ground, had made repeated attempts to get on to the pitch in the closing stages. A few succeeded before the mass invasion.

The match had been packed with incident. Luton winger John Aston was sent off for retaliation after a foul by Ian Britton in the 71st minute and four other players were booked — Chelsea's Britton, Charlie

by HENRY COPE

Luton 3 Chelsea 0

Cooke, Mickey Droy and Luton's Steve Buckley

Chelsea full-back Graham Wilkins was taken to hospital with a suspected fractured leg but was not detained, after a collision with Aston, and Luton skipper Alan West was taken off 10 minutes before the end and sent to hospital for X-rays after injuring a shoulder.

The violence erupted as Chelsea's hooligan fringe realised their earlier proud claim of "We're going up" had been humiliated.

Luton, a point better than Chelsea when both were relegated last season, looked a division ahead.

Smooth, inventive and patient, they probed the strengths of Chelsea's youngsters and found them wanting.

Peter Anderson shot them

No bother?

HERE IS an extract from the Luton programme:—

"Football has had a lot of bad publicity lately because of hooliganism by youngsters who call themselves Soccer fans. But sometimes I wonder if it's really as black a picture as we believe... we don't have much bother at Kenilworth Road."

ahead in the 28th minute from close range after John Faulkner's header had hit the post.

Somehow Chelsea survived the rest of the half. Accident-prone at the back and stereotyped up front, they handed Luton opening after opening.

Even captain Butch Wilkins laced his urgent running with a liberal helping of errors.

Inexperience cost Chelsea the second goal a minute after half-time. Brian Bason fouled Ron Fletcher with no danger threatening and Buckley scored from the penalty.

Twelve minutes later Ron Fletcher completed the rout, hammering the ball in after Adrian Aston had back-headed Buckley's free-kick.

LUTON. — Barber; Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Fletcher P. King, Aston, Fletcher R. West, Aston. Sub: Chambers.

CHELSEA. — Sherwood; Wilkins G. Sparrow, Bason, Droy, Dempsey, Britton, Wilkins R. Maybank, Swain, Cooke. Sub: Harris.