

Stunner for Luton

by PETER GILL

Luton 0 Bolton 2

Luton had their shortcomings in attack where striker Ron Futchter, on whom so much depends, never escaped the grip of the big Bolton centre back Paul Jones and was too often caught in possession.

While Bolton never quite

matched Luton's skill in approach they were good value for their win which they owed almost entirely to the superb rearguard action.

The only dampener on their celebrations was the booking by referee Ken Burns of three of their players in the second half. He cautioned Sam Allardyce for a foul on Alston, and Gary Jones and Peter Nicholson for showing dissent.

THIS was a stunning defeat for Luton and a boost for dark horse Bolton, who have now chalked up three wins on the trot.

The turning point came in the 37th minute when Paul Futchter gifted Bolton the lead with an own-goal.

When Hugh Curran headed into the Luton goalmouth, three players—goalkeeper Keith Barber, Bolton's Garry Jones and Paul Futchter—went up for the ball. Futchter rose above his goalkeeper and back-headed the ball into his own net.

This put Luton up against it and they piled on the pressure in the second-half against a Bolton back four that stood as firm as a rock.

Luton played some slick football in approach but their only real chance to get back into the game came shortly after the interval when John Faulkner fired in a powerful drive from a corner that beat goalkeeper Barry Siddall but was booted off the line by Roy Greaves.

They saw the chance of salvaging a point snatched away in the 71st minute.

Bolton's Peter Thompson picked up a clearance by John Byrom and made ground down the wing before finding Hugh Curran with a perfect pass. Curran was able to take the ball on and score a fine goal with a left-footed shot wide of Barber.

It put paid to Luton completely and Bolton finished the game at a stroll, stroking the ball about confidently.