

Curran seals it for Bolton

By FRANK BOOTH

75/76

BOLTON WANDERERS made it three League wins in a row when they beat newly relegated Luton Town 2-0 at Kenilworth Road.

Paul FUTCHER put the Wanderers on the way to victory with a 38th minute own goal and the lethal left foot of Hugh CURRAN set the seal on the win in the 72nd minute.

The game was a tough one and three Bolton players were booked—Sam ALLARDYCE, Garry JONES and Peter NICHOLSON. The Wanderers stuck well to their task and Paul JONES was brilliant at the heart of the defence.

There was a blow for Bolton manager Ian GREAVES when full-back Tony DUNNE was taken ill during the night at the team's hotel.

Dunne, who went down with a stomach upset, was in doubt until the last minute and the final decision was that Peter NICHOLSON should step into the fullback spot in his place.

Fortunately for the Wanderers 13 players had been taken on the trip and teenage attacker Steve TAYLOR was named as sub. It was the first change made by the Wanderers in five games.

ROBBED

Luton had an escape in the opening moments of the game when NICHOLSON and THOMPSON linked on the Bolton left. NICHOLSON crossed to BYROM, whose curling right foot shot at goal brought a tremendous save from BARBER, who flung himself to turn the ball past the post.

GREAVES took the corner but the kick was not a good one and ASTON picked up the ball near his own penalty area and tried to run it to safety. But he was robbed and as Bolton came straight back GREAVES was caught offside.

A GREAVES slip sent ASTON away and this time RON FUTCHER fell into the Bolton offside trap.

A long throw by JIM RYAN found ALSTON in the Bolton penalty area but he was pulled up for a foul on REID.

SIDDALL dashed from his line to take the ball at the feet of RON FUTCHER from a JIM RYAN pass into the Bolton box.

ESCAPED

Luton escaped again when GARRY JONES hit the ball across the face of goal and CURRAN's attempt to turn the ball home was foiled when he hit a defender.

SIDDALL saved the situation for the Wanderers when a long ball from the Luton defence

TEAMS

LUTON TOWN: Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul FUTCHER, King, Alston, Ron FUTCHER, Jim Ryan, Aston, Sub.: Chambers.

BOLTON WANDERERS: Siddall, Ritson, Nicholson, Paul JONES, ALLARDYCE, GREAVES, BYROM, REID, CURRAN, GARRY JONES, THOMPSON. Sub.: TAYLOR.

Referee: Mr K. Burns (Stourbridge).

went over the head of ALLARDYCE. KING chased onto it and the Bolton keeper somehow managed to block the shot with his body right on the edge of his area—injuring KING as he did so.

The Luton man needed treatment before he could continue.

REID broke into the Luton penalty area but when it looked as if he could turn towards goal he turned the ball back to THOMPSON, whose cross was too high for CURRAN.

Faulkner was cool under pressure when THOMPSON tried to rob him and the danger was cleared.

The Bolton attack was having problems against the strong Luton defence and when the Wanderers took the lead in the 38th minute it was through an own goal.

RITSON overlapped down the right to cross into the Luton penalty area and CURRAN on the far post climbed high to head across the face of goal. **RON FUTCHER** got his head to the ball and it looped over the head of BARBER and into the net.

The Wanderers attacked again and CURRAN needed treatment after a clash of heads with FAULKNER.

Half-time: Luton T. 0, Bolton W. 1.

A BYROM high ball into the Luton danger area was well controlled by JOHN RYAN, who turned it back to BARBER with CURRAN closing in.

A BUCKLEY cross caused problems when SIDDALL got his hands to the ball but couldn't hold it and ASTON clashed with the keeper, the ball running behind for a goal kick.

Paul JONES tackled to stop ASTON at the expense of a corner and from JIM RYAN's kick FAULKNER got in a shot at goal which was cleared off the line by GREAVES.

BOOKED

Siddall took the ball well in the air after an Anderson shot had spun off NICHOLSON.

In the 56th minute ALLARDYCE was unfortunate to be booked after a foul on ALSTON which looked to be six of one and half a dozen of the other.

Ron FUTCHER headed brother Paul's free kick over the Bolton bar.

ALLARDYCE did well to get in the way of a Ron FUTCHER shot after SIDDALL and NICHOLSON had collided as the 'keeper went to cut out a BUCKLEY cross.

Siddall was given a free kick when he was caught by Ron FUTCHER's boot as he dived at his feet.

The second booking of the game came in the 61st minute when Garry JONES was cautioned for falling to stand 10 yards from the ball at a free kick.

Byrom might have done better when he fastened on to a Garry JONES pass and took the ball to the byline. He tried to pull it back across the face of the goal but miskicked for BARBER to take the ball.

The Wanderers went further ahead in the 72nd minute when BYROM in midfield chipped the ball out to the left where, THOMPSON sent it on into the path of CURRAN. The Scot took the ball into the Luton box before crashing a low left-foot shot past BARBER into the net.

A third Bolton player was booked in the 74th minute. NICHOLSON was the name that went into the ref's book but the offence was not clear.

Attendance: 11,217.

FINAL: Luton Town 0, Bolton Wanderers 2.