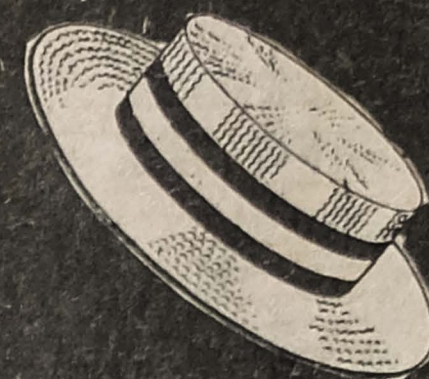


LUTON DRAW



HUSBAND GOAL IS NOT ENOUGH

A JIMMY HUSBAND goal nine minutes into the second half broke the monotony at Kenilworth Road this afternoon.

Husband, whose goal earned the point against Plymouth in midweek, did the trick again, when Rovers wilted under the first concentrated spell of Luton pressure.

But in a repeat performance of Wednesday, the visitors were allowed to come back and equalise through Kenyon after 66 minutes.

Although this morning's heavy rain had abated by the time the match was due to start, the ground staff had had to work hard all morning forking the pitch to get rid of the surface water.

The other cloud was of a completely different sort.

Luton had not won in their previous four matches, three of which had ended in defeat and one — at home to Plymouth during the week — had ended all square.

But today the one bright light was the return of club captain Alan West.

But, of course, his return meant that somebody had to drop out and Andy King, the teenager who has played so well this season, was the unlucky man. As manager Harry Haslam said when he announced his decision yesterday: "The lad is unlucky. He will be back."

Also missing today was Adrian Alston, who was left out and given a run in the Reserves at Plymouth. Jimmy Husband kept the other striker's position after a lively performance on Wednesday, when he scored Luton's only goal.

SPORTS FLASH

■ Before the start of today's Third Division match between Hereford United and Gillingham a collection was taken outside the ground for the widow and family of FIFA referee Ron Jones, who was killed in a car crash on Wednesday night after refereeing Hereford's league match with Swindon Town.

Luton began strongly with a good move inspired by West. Husband got over the cross from the right, which was just out of reach of Ron Fletcher, who went charging in.

Then it was Blackburn's turn. With the crowd still trying to work out the many positional changes on the programme, Faulkner conceded a corner under some pressure, and after Paul

**LUTON 1
BLACKBURN 1**
By
ROGER DUCKWORTH

Fletcher had made a bad clearance, centre half Fazackerley got in a low shot, but it was sadly wide.

And in the fifth minute Beamish shot past Barber, but the whistle for offside had already gone, to cut his celebrations short.

Under pressure from Parkes, Ron Fletcher did well to knock the ball off his opponent for a goal-kick. At the other end Seasman made a promising approach only for his hard shot to be blocked.

And Fazackerley had to make a timely clearance with Husband and Ron Fletcher closing in on a hard centre from Buckley.

After a move between the two Ryans, centre-half Faulkner ran on to a short pass from John, but ploughed his shot up the Kenilworth Road terrace to the back row.

A long free kick from Hawkins was miscued in the Luton goalmouth by Buckley, but John Ryan was well positioned to clear the danger.

After John Ryan had been adjudged to have fouled Parkes, Metcalfe screwed his shot wide.

Another cross from Jimmy Ryan was met by the head of the diving Ron Fletcher but his attempt went into the outside of the net.

With Martin shooting over the top, and Parkes losing a chase for the ball with Barber, Blackburn were having the best of the game for a spell, but Luton were terribly unlucky when Ron Fletcher controlled a pass from the right with great skill, beat goalkeeper Jones only to see his effort rebound off the crossbar.

In the confusion that followed, Husband and Blackburn's Hutt, collided and both had to be treated.

Then Seasman latched on to a through pass from Jimmy Ryan and, shooting on the turn, put a left-footer across

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Barber; John Ryan, Buckley, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Fletcher, Jim Ryan, Husband, Ron Fletcher, West, Seasman. Sub: King.

BLACKBURN: Jones; Wilkinson, Hutt, Hawkins, Fazackerley, Metcalfe, Oates, Beamish, Martin, Kenyon, Parkes. Sub: Hickman.

REFEREE: Mr R. Perkin (Stafford).

GOALS: Husband (Luton) 54 mins.

Kenyon (Blackburn) 66 mins

Att: 8,450

the face of the goal, and just wide of the far post.

Further industry by Seasman and Jimmy Ryan gave Anderson a shooting chance, but his effort was deflected for a corner and again the Rovers' defence was under pressure.

SPORTS FLASH

■ There were three goals in four minutes in the Manchester "derby" at Maine Road. After City had taken an early lead, 17-year-old David McCreery equalised in the 29th minute. A minute later, Macari put United ahead, but Royle made it 2-2 following a corner.

Luton conceded a free-kick just outside the box and then a corner but survived both. Even so, there was little authority about their game once the ball left the back four.

There were brief flurries of aggression from Luton but they were very brief indeed. Anderson had a couple of efforts blocked in their infancy, and Seasman won a corner with a bit of clever footwork.

And from another corner, knocked over by Jimmy Ryan, Faulkner headed wide of the far post.

Then Hawkins almost turned the ball into his own net as he put a foot to a shot by

Husband. Against the corner came to nothing.

And long runs at the Blackburn defence by both Ron Fletcher and Faulkner brought them absolutely nothing.

In the 42nd minute the referee booked Blackburn's Fazackerley for a foul on Seasman. Jimmy Ryan's free kick was headed wide by Faulkner.

The referee ordered the free kick to be retaken but still nobody managed to get in a shot.

HT: 0-0

With the wind behind them, Luton showed a few ideas early in the second half, but when West headed the ball through the Blackburn defence, Ron Fletcher was a fraction late as he skidded through. Goalkeeper Jones collected the ball.

Buckley was a bit lucky to win a corner after a long run down the left and from it Luton looked promising. But as Anderson tried to knock the ball back into the middle, Seasman was caught offside.

Blackburn's Wilkinson was booked for a foul on Seasman just to the left of the Rovers' penalty area. From the free-kick Luton could again make no headway.

A Jimmy Ryan corner was headed behind for another by Fazackerley. This was taken by West and with Luton putting on a bit of pressure Faulkner shot high and wide.



Peter Anderson watches the Blackburn keeper catch a high ball

Goalkeeper Jones did well to fist away efforts from Buckley and Jimmy Ryan. But still Luton could not score.

At long last, that elusive goal came in the 54th minute. The Rovers' defence eventually gave way under the pressure and a neat cross from the left by West was banged into the net by the jubilant HUSBAND.

A couple of minutes later West put over another good cross from the left, but it was just out of the reach of Ron Fletcher.

Some tremendous skill by Seasman ended with a clever pass to West whose low shot beat both the defence and the Blackburn goalkeeper only to hit the far post and come out.

Blackburn equalised following a 66th minute corner.

KENYON chased the ball back through the Luton defence and beat Barber with a well-placed shot. During the incident, Faulkner was knocked out in a collision with Fazackerley, but was revived with smelling salts.

Another free-kick for a foul on Jim Ryan and a left-wing corner failed to produce anything for the Town, and the fans began to get unhappy about this performance.

West was Luton's most enterprising player, but when he put a good pass into the path of Buckley, the full-back shot wide.

With time running out further Luton pressure brought them a corner and again Husband was unlucky when he had a shot cleared off the line by Wilkinson.