

Luton crumble

Blackpool 3, Luton 2

INJURY-HIT Luton nearly pulled off a shock win with a display which made a mockery of their record of only two points from the previous five games. Twice they held the lead, but then crumbled in the last 20 minutes when Blackpool finally found some spirit in attack.

Luton mastered the blustery conditions far quicker than their opponents, but even so there was a liberal sprinkling of mistakes on both sides. It was a slip by Blackpool skipper Suddaby on the sodden turf which allowed Anderson to put Luton in front after five minutes.

With Blackpool out of touch in mid-field and West prompting well in that department for Luton, it was against the run of play when Suddaby headed an equaliser five minutes before the interval.

However, stand-in centre-forward Spiring quickly restored Luton's lead with a diving header after 52 minutes following a superb run by winger Seasman.

Blackpool stuck doggedly to their task and after a series of corners Suddaby again equalised when he nudged the ball over after 72 minutes.

The goal proved the turning point and Barber in the Luton goal had to perform heroically. Luton's defence failed to keep out a low cross from Ainscow six minutes from time and Walsh ran in to net the winner.

Two players were booked — Luton's West in the first half for deliberate handling, and Blackpool's Ronson in the second half for a foul on Futchet.

Blackpool: Wood; Curtis, Bentley; Hart, Suddaby, Hatton; Ronson, Suddick, Walsh, Ainscow, Harrison. Sub.: Betts.

Luton: Barber; Ryan (John), Buckley; Anderson, Faulkner, Futchet; Ryan (Jimmy), Alston, Spiring, West, Seasman. Sub.: Chambers.