

TEAMWORK

BY LUTON

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Luton ... 1 Fulham ... 0

THE first clue that Tyrone James might get a run in the first team came last Monday, when the Fulham (and England) coach Bill Taylor took him on one side and asked: "How long since you played at right-back?"

The answer was two years ago when James, 19, whose father is from Trinidad and mother from Barbados, was an amateur with West Ham.

Injuries to three Fulham full-backs prompted the Taylor inquiry. James, a lithe and leggy six-footer, is a central defender for Fulham Reserves but made a smooth job of the emergency transition back to the No. 2 shirt.

He tackled firmly and cleared sharply and sensibly, surprising Luton players with his long reach in the tackle which got him out of trouble, even when apparently wrong-footed.

Splendid debut

This splendid first performance, Howe's domination of the middle and Busby's brave and clever runs—here is a forward of true First Division class—earned no points against Luton's superior accomplishment as a team.

Chambers, Anderson and relentless Jim Ryan were the driving force of Luton's attack, though they too would have drawn blank but for a tiny lapse by Mellor, over whose head Chambers looped the winner in the 27th minute.

The keeper was still off his line, tempted out when Ryan's attempt at a centre was blocked but the winger quickly followed up with a low flick inside to Chambers.

Howe thoroughly unsettled Luton in the later stages when he went up in attack: might this be his future role when Lacey is fit again?

His and a resurgent Fulham's efforts were unluckily cut short when George Flint blew the final whistle a good half-minute too soon.

Luton.—Barber; John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Fletcher P., Jim Ryan, Spirling, Fletcher R., Chambers, Seaman. (sub. West 11 min.).

Fulham.—Mellor; James, Slough, Mulhery, Howe, Moore, Mitchell (sub. Dowle 65 min.), Conway, Busby, Lloyd, Barrett.