

PURE MAGIC AS FULHAM FALL TO LUTON

LUTON came up with the win they so badly needed today — and had a good crowd to witness it, along with the TV cameras. And what a great goal it was that put them on the victory trail.

Fulham, riding high in the table, fell to a Luton side that, while unable to produce more than one goal, put on a solid attacking performance against really stiff opposition.

For once the two ends of the Luton ground looked reasonably full for today's attractive Second Division game.

And when you look at the team sheet it's not surprising. Fulham brought former Luton favourites Alan Slough and Viv Busby back to Kenilworth Road and included a pair of former England skippers — Bobby Moore and Alan Mullery.

Television also realised the attraction of today's game which was covered by London Weekend cameras for transmission after lunch tomorrow.

Fulham, of course, are managed by former Luton boss Alec Stock who got a friendly cheer from his old faithful fans when he walked along the track to the dug-out before the match.

Alec always had the sense of the big occasion and true to form today he strolled on the pitch to cut down a dangerous divot with his foot as Luton's groundsman Bob Kent made a gesture that he wouldn't mind signing him on his staff.

From last week Adrian Alston was missing from the Luton side which was otherwise unchanged. Club captain Alan West returned as substitute after coming through a mid-week match

THE DUCKWORTH VERDICT

LUTON's man of the match Brian Chambers scored a vital goal for Luton after 27 minutes.

Luton were desperate for a win, and, spurred from midfield throughout, they never let up.

On the other hand, Fulham came up the road from London determined not to play for a draw — though they were trailing for most of the match.

They always attacked whenever they could and former Luton player Viv Busby had a fine match, leading their attack with skill and vision.

At times Luton struggled in attack where Ron Futchers was closely marked by centre-half Howe and Bobby Moore.

But Luton had the disadvantage of losing John Seaman after only eight minutes with a head injury and they had to reshuffle their ideas sending Anderson up as a striker, with Ron Futchers and Spiring.

Anderson had an excellent game and was never short of ideas.

Right-back John Ryan and his namesake Jimmy also looked in great form when Luton were going forward while Faulkner was as strong as ever in the air in defence.

Luton 1 Fulham 0
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

unscathed following his recent shoulder injury.

Right from the kick-off coloured lad Tyrone James, making his debut, got into the game for Fulham with a fast pass out to Busby, but Chambers tackled quickly to

SPORTS FLASH

■ Paul Cheesly gave promotion chasing Bristol City the lead after 50 seconds at York.

stop Fulham progressing.

Because of injuries, Alan Slough was having to play at left back — against one of his best pals, Luton's Jimmy Ryan.

Busby was in the game again with a strong run down the left but under the close attention of John Ryan and Faulkner, he ran the ball out of play. In fact the linesman couldn't have missed it for he was running alongside Busby — almost as if he was expecting a pass.

Luton got into the game at the other end when Ron Futchers went on a long chase down the right towards the Kenilworth Road end, but his hard cross sailed over the Fulham bar.

After a John Ryan free-kick had been headed away by the tall Howe, we had a couple of glimpses of Bobby Moore at his best, cool under pressure and accurate with his pass.

Seaman hurt his head in a collision with Lloyd and had to have some treatment. It looked as if he had concussion, and he had to leave the field. This was in the eighth minute.

Both the Futchers and Faulkner had to work hard to

break up a Moore-inspired Fulham attack as Luton played with ten men.

In the 12th minute it was obvious Seaman was not going to leave the dressing-room and West was sent on to reorganise the Luton side.

Slough was playing well, and after starting one move he then supplied the cross which caught the high jumping Mitchell just offside.

Paul Futchers delighted the Luton crowd with some great skill under pressure from Barrett and Busby, but Fulham came again and Mitchell put a shot wide from an impossible situation after beating Barber to the ball on the by-line.

Then Mitchell was hurt as he got a foot to a cross from Barrett to get in a volley which Barber caught easily.

Ron Futchers went in chase of a lovely pass through the Fulham defence, but he could not catch the ball which went out of play for a goal-kick. The Luton fans were beginning to get impatient and they might have had a goal in the 24th minute had Jimmy Ryan not been knocked off the ball just outside the box by Howe.

Jimmy Ryan pushed the ball to John Ryan whose powerful shot went through the Fulham defence but straight into the arms of the fair-haired Mellor.

SPORTS FLASH

■ Tommy Robson scored with 16th and 23rd minute headers to put Peterborough ahead against Bury, the only unbeaten team in the Football League.



Bobby Moore races in to rob Seaman at Kenilworth Road

The goal that Luton so badly wanted came after 27 minutes — and it was a beauty.

John Ryan started it from defence, Anderson carried the move on with a pass out to Jimmy Ryan on the right who found CHAMBERS in an inside right position. Chambers sold the defence a magnificent dummy before going the other way and lobbing a brilliant left footer into the net over the head of Mellor.

A couple of minutes later Chambers had another shot blocked after Anderson and Ron Futchers had collided as they tried to get to a cross from Spiring.

Then Fulham almost got one. A lovely move by Conway found Busby in a scoring position and Barber made a fine diving save to his low shot.

Another tremendous free-kick from John Ryan, slipped to him by Chambers, again beat the Fulham defence, but again Mellor made a good catch.

A fine move between the two Ryans produced a centre from Jimmy and a good header from Ron Futchers which Mellor only just managed to stop. Unfortunately Futchers was just offside.

SPORTS FLASH

■ Mick Flanagan scored for Charlton after only 74 seconds against Oldham.

And then the Fulham goalkeeper took the ball off the feet of Anderson with a terrific dive after the Luton man looked to have gone clear.

Luton got back into top gear with a sparkling move between Paul Futchers, West and Anderson which ended with Ron Futchers volleying a shot a few feet over the top.

HT: 1-0

A short corner by Anderson produced a hard shot from Jimmy Ryan which hit the head of James and cannoned over the top.

The same player headed Spiring's corner away before Conway was penalised for pulling the shirt of West.

Further ideas by Anderson, who was playing as an out-and-

SPORTS FLASH

■ Derby were two up at home to Wolves with goals by Kevin Hector (10 mins) and Francis Lee (12 mins).

out attacker, sent Chambers through, but he could not control his shot from the left which went into the Oak Road crowd.

A tortured dribble by Spiring eventually ended with a cross, but it was too hard and had nobody on the other end of it.

An overhead cross from Mullery produced a header from Slough but there was no power in it and Barber caught the ball gratefully.

After a good tackle from James had prevented Spiring going any farther, a quick throw from the Luton man produced a well-aimed shot from West which Mellor

fumbled round for a corner.

But it was cleared, and a long run by Busby produced a corner at the other end.

From this, Busby was again prominent and headed just wide after out-jumping the Luton defence.

More skill from Chambers saw him dart through the Fulham defence in control, but his short centre was blocked and Fulham escaped.

Busby was proving a handful for the Luton defence and after Paul Futchers had stopped another of his runs, a shot from Lloyd gave Fulham a corner off the diving Barber.

SPORTS FLASH

■ Malcolm Macdonald gave Newcastle the lead after only four minutes against Norwich.

The Luton attack found it hard to click and when Jim Ryan made a good break his pass was mis-read by Ron Futchers who ran inside for the pass rather than chasing the ball.

In the 65th minute Fulham substitute Dowie replaced Mitchell.

A marvellous run by Jimmy Ryan won Luton a corner but it was wasted and Fulham went back on to the attack to win another flag-kick themselves.

A cross from Mullery brought a header from Lloyd which was not far wide after Fulham had quelled another Luton attack.

Then Busby headed a good chance just wide after a centre from Moore had been nodded across the goalmouth.

When Anderson headed on a through ball from West, Ron Futchers got in a snap shot and hurt himself in a collision with Howe.

With four minutes left, a good looking shot from Busby was half blocked by Faulkner, taking the sting out of the shot and allowing Barber to make a diving save.

MATCH DETAILS

LUTON TOWN: Barber; John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Paul Futchers, Jim Ryan, Spiring, Ron Futchers, Chambers, Seaman. Sub: West.

FULHAM: Mellor; James, Slough, Mullery, Howe, Moore, Mitchell, Conway, Busby, Lloyd, Barrett. Sub: Dowie.

REFEREE: Mr G. Flint (Kirkby).

Attendance: 14,086

Chambers (Luton) 27 min