

Towers Fit After Injury Scare 3/76

SUNDERLAND 2, LUTON TOWN 0.

(Half-time—0-0.)

Scorers—Kerr (55 min.), Robson (56).

SUNDERLAND saved their five-star blend for the second half to storm to a great win over Luton. But they were a long time getting into gear after a first half in which Luton had few problems coping with Sunderland's attack.

But from the moment two goals were swept into the Luton net within a minute, the game became a little one-sided. The promise of incident so lacking first half came 50 seconds after the restart.

Barber, in the Luton goal, was pulled up for over-carrying to give Sunderland an indirect free-kick inside the Luton penalty area.

They failed to cash in, but Jim Ryan was booked for a foul on Malone as he tried to follow up.

Then Montgomery was penalised for over-carrying inside

the Sunderland penalty area, and another indirect free-kick in a promising position brought no profit to Luton.

But then the fun started. Porterfield was pulled down by Faulkner on the edge of the penalty area and Kerr slammed home the free-kick.

A minute later Barber palmed out a Porterfield cross for Robson to drive home the second goal.

A third should have fallen quickly, with Porterfield again the chance-maker, but Robson, clear on the right, missed a tap-in chance, hitting the ball over the top.

Luton, who had attempted to open up the play a little, suddenly became fragile at the back, and Halom, Hughes, Kerr, and Porterfield all went close.

Aston was substituted for King in 65 minutes, and eight minutes from the end Sunderland's skipper, Towers, who had given an outstanding performance, was injured and helped from the field.

He is due to captain the England under-23 team in Czechoslovakia on Tuesday night, and the after-match news was that he had recovered completely from slight concussion.

Crowd—28,338.

Sunderland—Montgomery; Malone, Ashurst, Towers (Holden), Clarke, Moncur, Kerr, Hughes, Halom, Robson, Porterfield.

Luton Town — Barber; John Ryan, Thomson, Anderson, Faulkner, Fitcher, Jim Ryan, Chambers, Seasman, West, Aston (King).