

LUTON IN GOAL RUSH TRIUMPH

VICTORY over lowly York was vital as a confidence booster for Luton, and it came in a match which saw a goal rush — although there was only a tiny crowd present to witness it.

Chambers got Luton off to a great start with a goal after five minutes and Ron Futcher netted in the 25th. A penalty by Holmes enabled York to narrow the gap in the first half.

But in the second stage Fuccillo crowned a great debut for Luton by making it 3-1 after 53 minutes, and although Pollard reduced the Hatters' lead 22 minutes later, it was Luton's game. They deserved it, too.

Flu-hit Luton were without centre-half John Faulkner, striker Jimmy Husband and left-winger John Aston for today's match against York City.

All three fell victim to the "bug" during the week. Paul Price came in at centre-half with Fuccillo taking over in midfield and Jimmy Ryan doing Aston's job on the left wing.

On the way north, coach Roy McCrohan said he had told Jimmy he was not restricted to the left-wing but that he could try his luck on the other side if the situation warranted it.

Two good attacks sparked by centre forward Seal and right-winger Pollard won two early corners and they looked to be knocking the ball about with confidence.

Following a free-kick by full-back Stone, York's Cave broke through from midfield and had a clear shot at goal. Barber did well to stop the shot but he needn't have worried — Cave was offside.

But it was Luton who scored first. A good clearance by Price was knocked to Chambers by King. He received a return pass and the two worked the ball cleverly up the field before King slipped it into the midfield man's path in the York penalty box and CHAMBERS beat Crawford with a well-struck low shot.

There was a strangely quiet atmosphere because of the small crowd, but Luton continued to play some pleasing football, and another good pass from King put Fuccillo in a shooting position. He hit the ball hard but Crawford stopped it.

Ron Futcher and King

■ Former Luton Town player, Viv Busby, put Fulham ahead against Sunderland after 11 minutes.

charged in with enthusiasm, but a high centre from Jimmy Ryan was well caught by Crawford.

A free kick from the right caused the Luton defence some problems, but when it was headed back across the goalmouth, centre-forward Seal miskicked from close in.

A minute later, Holmes got in a powerful shot but it was caught cleanly by Barber.

Then the Luton goalkeeper came out smartly to field a useful-looking centre from Pollard who had beaten Paul Futcher comprehensively on a long run.

A good cross from Jim Ryan, this time from the right,

produced a good effort from King but his diving header skidded just wide of a post.

A run by York full-back Woodward brought a header out of Seal, but again it was easily caught by the Luton goalkeeper.

Another sparkling Luton move involving King and Ron Futcher broke down when Fuccillo put his centre too close to the York keeper for the Luton centre-forward to reach.

A good interception by Jimmy Ryan ended with him putting another good cross over, but Crawford fisted it clear with Ron Futcher charging in again.

Luton's second goal came in the 25th minute. Futcher's twin brother, Paul, found Fuccillo on the left with a good long pass. Although he slipped, Fuccillo turned the ball inside and RON FUTCHER made the job of banging the ball into the net with his left foot look decidedly easy.

Luton nearly had another a couple of minutes later when a cheeky little left-footer from John Ryan looked to be curling inside the post before Crawford scrambled across to put it round.

York's Topping was booked

MATCH DETAILS

YORK: Crawford; Stone, Woodward, James, Swallow, Topping, Pollard, Holmes, Seal, Cave, McMordie. Sub: Hosker.

LUTON TOWN: Barber, John Ryan, Buckley, Chambers, Price, Paul Futcher, Fuccillo, King, Ron Futcher, West, Jimmy Ryan. Sub: Thomson.

REFEREE: Mr K. Walmsley (Blackpool).

CHAMBERS (Luton) 5 min RON FUTCHER (Luton) 25 min

HOLMES (YORK) 34 min penalty FUCCILLO (LUTON) 53 min

POLLARD (York) 75 min ATTENDANCE: 3,132

after half an hour for dissent.

The York defence looked very dodgy under pressure, but goalkeeper Crawford prevented them going further behind when he made a good diving catch to a crisp shot from Fuccillo.

In the 34th minute York were awarded a penalty when John Ryan appeared to elbow a shot from Topping on to the crossbar. HOLMES scored with his penalty kick.

York almost drew level after a good move between Seal and Cave. A shot was deflected by Price but Barber was able to turn and make a good save.

■ Busby scored a second for Fulham against Sunderland after 60 minutes.

Just before half-time a mistake by King let in Cave who shot just wide.

HT: 1-2

Early in the second-half Luton were pushed back and following a foul by Buckley, a McMordie free-kick was well caught under pressure by Barber.

Chambers was booked after

kicking the ball away from under the nose of referee Walmsley.

And Luton were backpedalling again when the tricky Pollard went clear on the right and put over a good centre which Topping headed at goal. Luckily Barber was there again.

Luton went through a lengthy spell of not being able to put their passes together.

But then FUCCILLO jinked through the middle to score a splendid goal. He made an intelligent run and declined to pass the ball through to Ron Futcher who was in an offside position.

Following a corner, Buckley headed a header off the line. And at the other end, King made a hash of a cross from Jim Ryan which, unattended, he should have headed in.

A minute later King made another glaring miss when he drove his shot over the top following a dogged run by Fuccillo.

In the 57th minute, York sub Hosker went on in place of Holmes.

Paul Futcher was in considerable pain after stopping a terrific shot from Seal with his chest. But he bravely carried on.

Ron Futcher went in strongly for a high through ball from his brother, but was adjudged to have fouled centre-half Swallow.

A splendid ball by Fuccillo following some admirable aggression sent Jimmy Ryan down the left, but Ron Futcher could not "go" enough to reach his centre.

Ron Futcher was in some considerable difficulty after being hit in the midriff by a hard shot and then the referee had a cautionary word with Buckley for a strong tackle on Pollard.

Luton's lead was cut back yet again when Paul Futcher failed to hold McMordie as he

■ Watford director Elton John brought Michael Parkinson and George Best to see this afternoon's game at Vicarage Road.

cut in from the right and to be fair, short of fouling the York player in the box, he could do little about it.

McMordie put the ball in the middle and after one shot had been blocked, POLLARD cut in to shoot low past Barber who had no chance.

At the other end, West hit the bar with a terrific shot following a run on the left by Jim Ryan.

With about nine minutes left Luton won a flurry of corners and from one of these Price had a good header tipped over by Crawford.

■ Terry Venables today signed for St Patrick's Athletic, the League of Ireland side. The 32-year-old Crystal Palace coach hopes to be able to turn out for them tomorrow. They have already signed Queens Park Rangers' Barry Bridges.

■ Hartlepool, without a goal this year, were two up in ten minutes against Darlington, John Rowlands and Dave Smith

York 2 Luton Town 3
By ROGER DUCKWORTH

VERDICT

LUTON collected their fifth away win of the season at York this afternoon. And though there was only a goal in it at the end, the scoreline should have been far more convincing in Luton's favour.

After 25 minutes they were two goals up through Chambers and Ron Futcher but a handling offence on the goal line by John Ryan gave York a penalty with which Holmes scored.

The Town went two goals clear again early in the second half, when Fuccillo, who had a first-class debut, raced through for an intelligently taken solo goal.

In fact Fuccillo had a most impressive match in midfield and his tackling was decisive and his passing good.

While they were looking to hang on to their lead, Luton conceded another goal when Pollard netted after a bit of a scramble in the goalmouth.

Towards the end, York almost equalised a couple of times and Barber made two good saves.

I though King played well at centre-forward and Paul Price who came in at centre-half for Faulkner, did a first-class job. Luton can be proud of their youngsters today.

Towards the end West hit the bar and was unlucky not to score his first goal of the season. But in the end, Luton were grateful for some good defensive work by Paul Futcher who had an impressive afternoon.