

TEENAGE POWER

Fuccillo and Price make their mark

TWO teenagers, centre-half Paul Price and midfielder Lilly Fuccillo, made their mark for Luton at York on Saturday. The two youngsters were given their break when flu decimated the ranks of Luton's first team.

They stepped among the men and played so well that coach Roy McCrohan is going to recommend to manager Harry Haslam that both are retained for the next first team game.

The only problem is that we don't know when that's going to be. Luton should have been entertaining Southampton on Saturday, but the Saints are still in the FA Cup. If they are not involved in a replay the Football League will name a date early next week for the match to be played at Luton.

But I am sure that not even opposition of this calibre will cause Fuccillo and Price sleepless nights. They came through Saturday's League debut with broad-shouldered maturity beyond their years.

Now John Faulkner and Jimmy Husband will have to shrug off their illness and come out fighting if they want their places back.

Price slotted in alongside the again-brilliant Paul Fitcher as if he'd been doing the job all season.

And Fuccillo scored a goal of such brilliance that one simply had to be amazed at his judgment.

Although Ron Fitcher and Andy King were both calling for a pass, Fuccillo went it alone and scored with a low shot.

He said afterwards: "I heard them calling, but I was aware they were in offside positions. I decided to keep going."

That was for Luton's third goal. It put them two up for the second time. Brian Chambers started it off with a well-struck goal following a beautifully-balanced one-two move with King.

Danger

Then Ron Fitcher knocked in his regular goal, and Luton looked to be drifting along against a shabby-looking defence.

Then fate turned against them, and York were awarded a penalty for a handling offence by John Ryan on the goal-line, given after he had knocked an effort from Seal against the bar and out of danger.

John moaned: "I didn't handle it. The bloke hit the ball so hard it just hit me up here somewhere (indicating his right shoulder) and flew off. I never saw it and definitely did not intentionally handle it. Still, that's the way it goes."

By ROGER DUCKWORTH
York City 2 Luton Town 3

Holmes scored with the kick, and Luton were made to fight a bit harder.

But with West and Fuccillo putting in some determined tackling in midfield, and with King and Jim Ryan supplying the guile up-front and Ron Fitcher the fire-power, Luton never looked in danger of losing.

Fuccillo's goal in the second half made it 3-1, and Luton were playing with such assurance that one felt they could have scored almost at will.

Convincing

But give York credit, they fought. Nippy winger Pollard, their best player in spite of being well-marshalled by Steve Buckley, pulled a goal back, and at the end Luton were praying for a whistle that came two and a half minutes late in spite of their being no stoppages.

Even so, I must not give the impression that Luton were lucky. They should really have had a far more convincing victory.

King missed an easy header, and then struck a shot over the target from a premier position.

And Alan West deformed the crossbar with a fierce shot that should have brought him his first goal of the season. "One of these days . . ." he laughed afterwards.

Chambers was booked for kicking the ball away when penalised, and York's Topping went into the book for dissent.

In spite of that it was a thoroughly enjoyable game, probably brought about by the lack of discipline in the York defence, and Luton's eagerness to exploit the situation. What a pity it is they have no match on Saturday.

LILLY
FUCCILLO . . .
scored a goal
of great
maturity



PAUL PRICE . . . great debut

