

HUSBAND PUTS LUTON AHEAD

But lead slips in Carlisle counter-attack

76/77

STRIKER Dixie Deans was still not fully recovered from a broken nose and Luton named the same 11 which defeated Hereford, last week.

The only change was at substitute where John Aston returned following a glandular infection and took over from Ricky Hill.

Carlisle who drew with Blackpool in midweek also had their injury problems. Peter Carr and George McVitie were both ruled out and close season signing John Smith from Everton was brought in for his first full game.

In attack, out of favour striker Bobby Owen was also recalled, and in goal, former Luton keeper Allan Ross was making his 499th appearance for the home side.

Carlisle made a confident start and Paul Futcher was forced to concede a corner when centre-forward Lathan run on to a pass from Owen. But Luton hit back immediately.

A good break by Ron Futcher caught the Carlisle defence napping and only a timely tackle from MacDonald stopped Husband collecting a dangerous looking through ball.

Play was soon back in the

MALCOLM NUGENT reports from Brunton Park

Luton half and the visitors were forced to concede their second corner. This time the kick was only partially cleared and home midfielder Mick Barry let fly with a dipping 30-yard shot that wasn't far off target.

Luton replied again with another dangerous break which might have brought them a goal. Again Ron Futcher was the architect pushing the ball through for Jim Ryan. The wing-half's shot was deflected by MacDonald and keeper Ross had to go down smartly to push the ball round the post.



STEVE BUCKLEY

In the 12th minute Luton were in a spot of bother when Chambers lost the ball in midfield, but Steve Buckley was on hand to clean up with a back pass to keeper Barber.

Barber was in action again a minute later when he got up well to cut out a cross from Barry with Martin running in.

But the Hatters were not letting Carlisle have it all their



JIMMY HUSBAND

CARLISLE: Ross, Bonnyman, Gorman, Smith, MacDonald, Parker, Owen, Barry, Lathan, Rafferty, Martin. Sub: Prudham.

LUTON: Barber, Price, Buckley, Jim Ryan, Faulkner, Paul Futcher, Husband, West, Ron Futcher, Fuccillo, Chambers. Sub: Aston.

own way. West and Ryan were finding space well in midfield and keeping the home defence on their toes.

West was unlucky when he broke down the left flank and appeared to be roughly

GREGORY SHINES FOR RESERVES

Luton Res v Cardiff Res

LUTON TOWN Reserves entered this afternoon's game still seeking their first victory this season in the Football Combination.

Luton Reserves full-back Millett had a fierce drive deflected for a corner in the opening three minutes but this was easily cleared.

Cardiff replied with an attack but saw a shot from Macdonald beat Luton keeper Knight only to strike the inside of an upright. The keeper saved the rebound.

Play was moving from end to end and the pace in the first quarter was hectic. Williams of Cardiff was lectured after a late tackle on McNichol. At this stage Luton were finding their men better but Cardiff were holding out.

Their midfield gradually got on top and keeper Healey was seeing more of the action than his opposite number.

A mistake by Giles allowed Gregory to find Carr but from the return pass Gregory shot wide.

Two minute later a dreadful mistake by Pontin allowed in Carr but his finishing shot was very poor. Then Gregory saw his fierce drive tipped on to the crossbar and finally saved by keeper Healey.

Luton Town: Knight; Mead, Millett, Smith, Jones, McNichol, Ingram, Carr, Johnson, Gregory, Hill. Sub: Brown.

Cardiff City: Healey; Attley, Burr, Williams, Pontin, Miller, Chorley, Giles, Macdonald, Leach, Wilson. Sub: Davies.

goal by Faulkner. With Ross all ready to meet it, it was JIMMY HUSBAND who hit a badly swerving ball into the net from ten yards.

But Luton boosted by the goal suffered a blow a minute later. Jimmy Ryan went to the touchline for attention and immediately John Aston was brought on.

Aston was soon in action taking a short pass from Fuccillo to hit a low drive into the side netting.

Luton certainly had their tails up following the goal. Ron Futcher had the ball in the net again in the 25th minute when he headed in a Steve Buckley cross — but this time the linesman's flag was up for off-side.

Aston found plenty of space on the left wing and it was obvious he was going to prove quite a handful for the home defence — and Bonnyman in particular.

First he fastened on to a West pass to put over a superb far post cross which had keeper Ross struggling to clear. Then he beat two men in a neat dribble before pushing a pass inside to Fuccillo whose shot was well wide.

Up front Ron Futcher was floored twice in a matter of minutes by scathing tackles by MacDonald. But although on the second occasion he appeared to be in quite a bit of trouble, he recovered without treatment from the bench.

Luton with West having a fine match in midfield appeared to have the game well under control.

But then in the 37th minute the home side levelled after one of the best moves of the match. Lathan laid the ball off for full back John Gorman whose cross to the near post was headed home by BILL RAFFERTY — his sixth league goal of the season.

The match was becoming very niggly and Carlisle's Smith marked his first home League appearance with a booking after a biting tackle on a Luton defender.

Luton almost regained the lead after a good move started once again in midfield by West. Aston pushed the ball across the face of the goal and found Ron Futcher at the far post. But this time the header was cleared.

It was now developing into a ding-dong battle with play sweeping from end to end. Lathan tried a long-range shot which was comfortably saved by Barber and then just before the interval full-back Price conceded a corner.

So at half time the score ended at 1-1 but the home fans showed their disapproval of referee Don Shaw by booing him from the field. They had been baffled by some inconsistent decisions in awarding free kicks.

HT: 1-1

LUTON — from page 14

It was Barber who came to Luton's rescue again in the 53rd minute. This time he did well to fist a dipping 25 yard effort from Bobby Owen over the top. From the corner Martin tried a tricky overhead kick but was well wide.

In the 55th minute Luton's Ron Futcher was booked for dissent. He was pulled up for pushing and showed his disapproval by throwing the ball away in disgust.

Carlisle looked much livelier in the second half and Luton were being forced to defence in greater numbers. But they still looked dangerous on the break. Husband and Chambers linked up to send Aston racing away down the left. But with Ron Futcher and Husband waiting at the far post, Aston pulled his cross back for Fuccillo whose shot was blocked.

A minute later Aston almost made amends when he brilliantly waltzed round two Carlisle defenders. But Ron Futcher was unable to turn quickly enough and the chance was wasted.

Luton were certainly not prepared to settle for a draw and West went close with a diving header after a good run by Husband.

Chambers almost scored the vital goal in the 59th minute. He got a second chance at a West pass and hit a great shot which beat keeper Ross but was inches the wrong side of the post.