

Brother's mistaken identity?

THE Ron Futcher booking, which mystified TV viewers when it was shown on Sunday, stemmed from his use of bad language directed against his own twin brother.

Ron didn't think much of a pass which Paul sent in his direction. Always quick to react with his tongue, Ron admits that he used a rude word or two when he shouted at Paul.

Frustrated by a pass which had gone out of play, Ron also showed his disgust by kicking the ball away.

He says referee Tony Glasson booked him for using bad language to a linesman. And even Millwall players knew that Ron had been shouting at his brother.

Mr Glasson said he would talk to the linesman before writing his disciplinary report to the FA. The linesman told Town players he didn't know whether Ron's abuse was directed at him or not.

Probably, Ron will be lucky to get off with a caution for "ungentlemanly conduct." The language he admits using would be classed by many referees as foul and abusive, for which, strictly speaking, punishment should be a sending-off.

The Town's other booking was also unlucky. It was the first to be received in the league by defender Graham Jones, who tried to tackle John Seaman but went in late and sent the Millwall man sprawling.

MISTAKES GIVE IT TO MILLWALL

IT WAS ALMOST a party atmosphere at Millwall on Saturday as Gordon Jago conducted a bright and breezy Press conference. He, and most of Fleet Street's men, were bubbling over at the pleasures of seeing a fast, open game and six goals.

It contrasted sharply with the feelings of disappointment in the Town camp after they had come within 11 minutes of grabbing a point.

On the day, they couldn't grumble about the result, despite the two late goals which gave Millwall a flattering margin of victory.

The Town sparkled in patches, but made crucial errors in their own half.

Jago summed it all up in one comment: "Luton normally play much better than they did today."

"Apart from a header in the first minute, my keeper didn't have a save to make."

Jago picked on another surprise: "Luton tended to play a game we didn't expect — there was much more of the long ball in their game."

And I fear that statement was a polite way of saying that the Town had sunk too often to kick-and-run, with no-one able to play long passes consistently and accurately.

At times the pace of the game was positively frantic, but when it came to quick passes and one-touch moves Millwall had the edge.

They also managed to win in midfield, where Terry Brisley made up for his lack of size with some effective work.

Against his industrious performance, Brian Chambers and Lil Fuccillo slipped slightly from the classy skills they had shown in recent weeks, and Alan West suffered delight and despair in a patchwork display.

The front three were

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RON PURVES

disappointing again, with John Aston ineffective, Ron Futcher struggling to find his touch and Jim Husband out of sorts and then injured.

Dixie Deans came back, as sub, for the last 15 minutes, and that wasn't long enough for him to make any impression.

The brightest feature of a dispiriting display was the performance of 17-year-old Graham Jones as replacement for the injured John Faulkner.

He came through a difficult assignment well, and others, with more experience, take more blame than him for the result.

The Town had a dream start. In the first minute Fuccillo might have scored with a header from a cross by Buckley, and the match was only 124 seconds old when the Town went ahead.

It was a simple build-up: Keith Barber punted the ball downfield, Ron Futcher headed it on to Fuccillo, and he in turn laid it off to West.

The skipper, 30 yards from goal, saw Goddard off his line and sent in a dipping shot, over the goal-keeper and just under the bar.

Within 56 seconds, Millwall were given an equaliser. They raided down the right and the ball finally broke loose on their left.

"I just couldn't afford a manager of both the news-agents and the grocery, so I employed a manager to run both shops," he said.



● THE moment that annoyed the Town and baffled millions of "Big Match" TV viewers: referee Tony Glasson books Ron-Futcher after the Luton striker had used some choice language. In the background is twin brother Paul, the subject of Ron's outburst. Ron can't believe it as the ref cautions him for swearing at a linesman, and Millwall full-back Dave Donaldson shares Futcher's disbelief.

Hazell took the ball off Ron Futcher and fed Trevor Lee on the right. He beat Steve Buckley for speed, and pulled the ball back for Brisley to race in and score from six yards.

Six minutes after the interval the Town came back when they strung together the best move of the game.

Paul Futcher cleared a

professionalism; Buckley's penalty kick whizzed past him like a shell from a gun, a lethal missile rather than a football.

At that stage it looked as though the Town might hold on for a point, although they never looked

Match Details

MILLWALL 4, LUTON TOWN 2

Half-time: 2-1

TOWN: Barber; Price, Buckley, Jones, Paul Futcher; Chambers, West, Fuccillo; Husband (Deans, 75 mins), Ron Futcher, Aston.

MILLWALL: Goddard; Evans, Donaldson, Kitchener, Hazell; Brisley, Walker, Shaahan; Lee, Seaman, Harris. Sub: Fairbrother, not used.

THE GOALS: Alan West's first of the season, 30-yard shot, second minute; Kitchener equaliser through Barber, 56 seconds later; Brisley for Millwall, 33 minutes, after Lee skinned Buckley; Buckley, penalty, 51 minutes, after Walker upended Fuccillo after the best attacking move of the game; Walker for Millwall, 79 minutes, after Town failed to clear a free kick; Seaman for Millwall, in injury time after West gave the ball away.

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