

# DEANS OFF — BUT LUTON WIN PRAISE

LANCASTRIANS aren't one for lavishing praise willy nilly. It has to be really earned before it is grudgingly given.

So Luton can take comfort from their defeat at Bolton last night in the many compliments which came their way for giving the League Cup semi-finalists such a good run for their money.

Much of the praise came from Bolton manager Ian Greaves who said: "Luton played nearly all the football and lost. I can understand them being choked about the result."

His Luton counterpart Harry Haslam

**Bolton 2 Luton 1**  
**By LAWRIE MORRISON**

managed to put on his usual brave face after the match. But he was clearly disappointed about gaining no tangible reward for such a gutsy performance on a ground which has rarely witnessed a Luton triumph.

"The general consensus of opinion was that we deserved a point" he said. "But by my reckoning, we were worth two. We showed them how to play for most of the game."

The Luton boss has vent his wrath on a number of referees this season and Bert Newsome, the man-in-the-middle last night, came in for his fair share of criticism.

The Luton camp were unhappy with a number of his decisions — not the least his booking and then sending off of Dixie Deans all within the space of a minute in the second half.

Deans's booking in the 74th minute was certainly questionable. After Bolton had been awarded a free kick just outside the box he was hauled out of the defensive wall and cautioned for pushing Sam Allardyce out of the way twice despite the fact that the big defender was clearly backing into him.

The wall was still in a state of confusion when Roy Greaves scored Bolton's winner. And, a minute later, Deans, seeking retribution, was shown the red card for aiming a kick at the Bolton scorer.

Mr Newsome's report said the sending off was for "persistent misconduct after a caution". So that doesn't mean an automatic suspension. But he now has 16 disciplinary points to his name.

Deans's dismissal ended a traumatic 13 minutes for Luton which had seen them lose a one goal lead and virtually killed any hope of salvaging a point.

It was the only period in the match which Bolton could claim to have really dominated.

Even the spur of a second goal and Luton being reduced to ten men failed to lift Bolton. They remained very wary of Luton's swift breaks from deep positions and were content to keep possession near their own penalty area.

The Lancashire side had started the match full of promise. But Luton contained their early fire well and then showed the First Division hopefuls they hadn't come to defend a point.

Efforts by Deans and Alan West were ruled out for off-side before Lilly Fuccillo gave them a 33rd minute lead with a gem of a goal. He went past Jones, Allardyce and goal-

## MATCH DETAILS

**BOLTON** — McDonagh; Nicholson, Dunne, Greaves, Jones, Allardyce, Morgan, Whatmore, Taylor, Reid, Smith (Thompson 55 mins).

**LUTON** — Aleksic; Price, Buckley, Chambers, Faulkner, P. Futch, Deans, West, R. Futch, Fuccillo, Ryan. Sub: Hill.

**REFEREE** — Bert Newsome (Broseley)

**ATTENDANCE** — 17,475.

**SENDING OFF** — Deans (Luton) 75 minutes.

**BOOKINGS** — Paul Futch (Luton) 27 minutes for dissent, Allardyce (Bolton), 58 minutes for a foul tackle, and Deans (Luton), 74 minutes for pushing.

keeper McDonagh to slip the ball into the empty net.

For the first quarter of an hour of the second half the Luton defence, in which Paul Futch was again outstanding, had no trouble in containing Bolton's free-scoring forwards. And it looked as if they might lay their Burnden Park League bogey.

But it all went wrong in the 62nd minute. West had just gone off for treatment for an injury when Bolton at last found a way through the Luton defence, Greaves setting up Neil Whatmore. And he flicked the ball past on-loan goalkeeper Milija Aleksic.

The Plymouth keeper certainly didn't let Luton down in what was obviously a difficult first match for him.

The equaliser was just the tonic that the crowd and Bolton needed. But Luton might still have come away with a deserved point had referee Newsome been a little more aware of Allardyce's antics while the 74th minute free kick was being taken and had Deans kept his temper afterwards.



Luton's on-loan keeper Aleksic punches clear from Whatmore